

U.S. 'Star Wars' team tours Europe

OSLO (R) — The U.S. has sent a mission to Europe to "educate" its allies about the U.S. strategic defence initiative, popularly known as "Star Wars". The five-nation tour by senior government officials follows growing European scepticism over the proposed research and reflects U.S. concern about its allies' doubts. The officials, speaking in Oslo on the basis of not being named, said Friday their visit was "educational," but added: "We don't expect to go back with any contracts in our pockets." However, they said they were sure of broad European backing for the programme. They have already visited Denmark, and leave Norway to go to West Germany, the Netherlands and Spain over the next week. Britain and West Germany, the closest U.S. allies, have both signalled major doubts about the space project. While expressing confidence over support from both, the U.S. officials offered no explanation for the omission of Britain from their tour.

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Klibi receives King's message

AMMAN (J.T.) — Arab League Secretary General Chadi Klibi Thursday received a message from His Majesty King Hussein dealing with the current situation in the Middle East and the Iran-Iraq war, a report in the Arabic newspaper Al Rai said Friday. Jordan's permanent representative to the Arab League Nabih Al Nimer, who delivered the King's message to Mr. Klibi, said that the message included a call by King Hussein for Arab countries to adopt a unified stand vis-a-vis finding an early solution to the Gulf war and the threats facing the Arab World.

King cables good wishes to Tunisia

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein has cabled Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba on the occasion of Tunisia's Independence Day. The King wished the Tunisian president good health and the Tunisian people continuous prosperity and progress.

India rounds up 100 murder suspects

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian police rounded up more than 100 foreigners for questioning in the Indian capital following the murder of Soviet diplomat Vladimir Khizhchenko, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported Friday. The news agency said all but 14 of the foreigners, mostly Afghans, were later released by police who have launched a massive search for the 48-year-old envoy's killers. A police spokesman Friday told Reuters a foreign news agency had reported receiving a telephone call in New York claiming responsibility for Thursday's attack (See page 8).

Brock named U.S. labour secretary

WASHINGTON (USIA) — President Reagan has named William Brock, an outspoken supporter of free and fair trade, as his choice for secretary of labour in his second term. On announcing his decision Wednesday, Mr. Reagan called Mr. Brock "our top choice" to head the Labour Department. Currently the chief U.S. trade policy maker, Mr. Brock is known in political circles as a man skilled in the arts of negotiation and compromise. Assuming that Mr. Brock is confirmed by Congress, he will succeed Raymond J. Donovan, who resigned March 15 after a New York judge ruled that he must stand trial on charges of grand larceny and fraud.

Sri Lanka extends emergency

COLOMBO (R) — The Sri Lankan parliament Friday extended a nationwide state of emergency for another month after it was told separatist guerrillas were planning a full-scale battle. National Security Minister Lalith Atbalambudali said: "The terrorists are planning to launch a do-or-die battle—a last-ditch stand. We are prepared for this although we feel there is no military solution to the crisis." Guerrillas are fighting to set up a separate state in the northern and eastern provinces for the island's minority Tamil community.

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U.S., endorsing talks with joint team, says move should lead to negotiations

Masri, Shultz attack restrictions on aid to Jordan

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The Reagan administration said Friday it would expect any meeting between the United States and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to lead promptly to direct Arab-Israeli peace negotiations.

The new White House statement on Middle East peace hopes elaborated on President Reagan's news conference remark Thursday night that "we're willing to meet" a joint Arab delegation. Mr. Reagan reiterated that the United States would not deal with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as long as the PLO did not acknowledge Israel's right to exist and accept United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 that envisages the exchange of territory for peace.

Saying the ultimate U.S. goal was direct Arab-Israeli negotiations, White House spokesman Larry Speakes said Friday of a meeting with a joint delegation: "If this could be helpful, we would be willing."

He added: "We would expect such a meeting to be followed promptly by direct negotiations with Israel."

The idea of such a meeting is being proposed by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak who had talks with Mr. Reagan 10 days ago and by Jordanian Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri who was due to hold a second meeting with Secretary of State George Shultz later Friday.

Mr. Masri, who first saw Mr. Shultz on Wednesday, told reporters he found Mr. Reagan's remarks "very positive."

But he said the PLO would have to approve the makeup of the Palestinian side of a joint delegation.

Mr. Masri renewed his call for U.S. involvement in the peace process, saying it was essential to bring forth new ideas on narrowing the gap between the Arab and Israeli positions.

He said that in its Feb. 11 accord with Jordan on joint action for peace, the PLO had gone as far as it could at present. The United States, he said, should give a signal to encourage the PLO.

President Reagan moved Washington a shade closer to the course advocated by Mr. Mubarak in answering questions from reporters Thursday at his 29th nationally televised news conference.

The president also said that prospects for a summit meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev "should be good," and that it is "high time" such a session was held (See page 8).

Mr. Reagan made it clear he saw no direct role for the United States in proposed Middle East negotiations, saying again that the

solution was to be found in direct talks between Israelis and Arabs. He said Washington's role was to "do whatever we could to help bring the warring parties together."

The president told a questioner the United States is "willing to meet with a joint group — Palestinian and Jordanian. But... not the PLO because... we have not had any statement from them that they will recognise Israel and that they will recognise (U.N. Resolution) 242... But there are many Palestinians who don't feel that they're represented by the PLO."

The president said such Palestinians are to be found in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. He said Mr. Mubarak informed him of attempts to put together a delegation, and he suggested he had told the Egyptian leader "we'd be happy to discuss with them. But they've got to understand we are not getting into direct negotiations... We're only to do what we can to help."

Mr. Reagan denied that the current U.S. policy toward the Middle East was one of disengagement and said he felt Mr. Mubarak had been misrepresented in reports that he was disappointed by his Washington talks.

"It isn't disengagement, and let me point out, I don't believe it's a misapprehension that President Mubarak felt disappointed. He made no request. He told us what he was doing, and certainly we complimented him highly upon what he's doing — I think it's

great. "But our proposal, in the very beginning, was that we did not want to participate in the negotiations. It wouldn't be any of our business to do so, but that we'd do whatever we could to help bring the warring parties together, and, in effect you might say, continue the Camp David process, and continue trying to find more countries that would do as Egypt did and make peace."

Mr. Reagan noted that a U.S. official would be travelling to the region shortly. He is Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy, who is to have talks with Middle East leaders next month.

Mr. Shultz is also to travel to Israel on May 10. But this will be only a one-day visit and there are no plans for him to go to other countries in the region, officials said.

Addressing a House of Representatives subcommittee, Mr. Shultz said earlier Thursday the U.S. might be willing to a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation if it had no PLO members.

"If you can find a delegation like that, that is the sort of thing you're looking for," Mr. Shultz said.

He said the U.S. goal was direct Arab-Israeli peace talks and added: "If we can find... a fairly sure way of getting there then we should want to pursue that."

Mr. Shultz added that there were Palestinian leaders "who the Palestinians would see as genuinely supportive of their interests" (Continued on page 5)

Iraqi planes raid Iranians towns; Rafsanjani threatens missile attack

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq said Friday its warplanes raided three Iranian cities and hit a "very large vessel" in the Gulf as an Iranian hardcore religious leader threatened to fire missiles into Baghdad.

An Iraqi military spokesman, reading a war communiqué over Baghdad Radio, said that the Iranian cities of Arak, Bushehr and Hamadan were struck, with "all our jet fighters returning safely to base."

Iran confirmed the Iraqi report, adding that the raiders also overflew Tehran when Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani was delivering a sermon to squatting crowds at congregational prayer.

The Iranian news agency, IRNA, added that the Iraqi planes also violated Iranian air space over the cities of Qazvin and Hamadan at lunchtime.

It said that these raiding planes "dropped their bomb loads around the city of Hamadan." The agency gave no further details.

Later Friday, the Tehran military command issued a communique summarising air activities during the past 24 hours.

ending at 1500 GMT Friday. It said that a total of 13 Iranian cities were raided by the Iraqis, adding that one person was killed and 21 were injured in the raid on the southern city of Bushehr, where five houses were destroyed.

Friday's attack on a "large naval target" took place at 1600 hours (1300 GMT), according to an Iraqi military spokesman. "Large naval target" is a byword in Iraqi military parlance for supertankers.

Gulf shipping circles, however, said they had not picked up any distress signals from vessels in the waterway.

The shipping sources told the AP that since the attack was said to have taken place near Kharg, which is in the Iran-Iraq war zone, it could take some time before they would learn whether any vessels were actually damaged.

Iranian salvage boats would normally rush to the help of Iraqi-attacked vessels in that area, they said.

Meanwhile, Mr. Rafsanjani, speaking during the Friday prayers in Tehran, threatened that a surface-to-surface missile would be "soon" directed against Bag-

had. The missile, he said, would be the "fifth" directed against the Iraqi capital. Explosions rocked Baghdad last week and early this week after each of the Iranian missile firing claims. But Iraqi officials blamed two of the explosions on acts of sabotage and made no comment on the other two.

Mr. Rafsanjani said all Iraqi territory except its Iranian strip was within range of Iranian missiles. Mr. Rafsanjani, implied the missiles were made in Iran.

The next missile would bear the words "Made in Iran," he said to end speculation over the origin of the missiles.

Arab diplomatic sources here and elsewhere in the Gulf region said the Soviet-made missiles were sold to Iran by Libya or North Korea.

Alluding to the March 11 Iranian ground offensive into the southern Iraqi Huwazeh region, Mr. Rafsanjani said "that was only a prelude to that big job ahead of us."

He was obviously referring to (Continued on page 5)

PSP, army-Falangist alliance renew battles around Beirut

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Intense artillery and rocket duels erupted Friday in the mountains above Beirut where army troops backed by rightist militiamen face fighters of the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP).

A Reuters correspondent on a Beirut rooftop watched plumes of smoke rise as shells hit a mountain ridge east of the city and saw red flashes from artillery firing back, in the worst flare-up in the area for several weeks.

Red tracer bullets and rocket trails arced across the sky at dusk and at one point the two sides were trading shells at the rate of one every two or three seconds, he said.

Rightist Falangist radio said the army-held town of Souq Al Gharb and other mostly Christian villages had come under tank, artillery and rocket fire and army gunners returned the fire.

PSP radio said the army was using mortars and heavy machine guns against the mainly Druze towns and villages, including

Alay, 15 kilometres east of Beirut. The fighting raged for more than an hour and then eased. There was no immediate word on casualties.

The flare-up followed a Falangist militia revolt against President Amin Gemayel's policies. PSP leader Walid Junblatt said last week Muslim and leftist forces should "break the neck" of the rebels led by pro-Israeli Samir Geagea.

Mr. Junblatt and his Shi'ite Muslim ally Nabih Berri stayed away from a cabinet meeting Friday at which ministers repealed 23 decrees-laws enacted by the previous government and opposed by Muslim leaders. Thirty other decrees were amended.

The government was acting under special parliamentary powers which expired Friday.

Official sources said Mr. Gemayel told ministers refugees were returning to their homes in eastern suburbs of Sidon, where a ceasefire Thursday ended four days of fighting between Falangist mil-

itiamen and troops aided by leftist militiamen. Mr. Gemayel also criticised what he termed international indifference to Israeli actions in South Lebanon, where Israeli troops Thursday killed 30 people in "raids" on villages outside the zone they occupy.

Leaders condemn revolt

The revolt in Mr. Gemayel's mostly Christian Falange Party has been widely condemned by prominent Christian leaders. Leaders of the Falangist and National Liberal (NLP) parties spoke out Thursday for the first time against the 10-day-old revolt.

NLP Secretary-General Dany Chamoun told Reuters the rebels were "playing with fire" and could plunge Lebanon back into civil war. "We could all wind up in shelling and counter-shelling," he said. (Continued on page 5)

3 French kidnapped in Beirut

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A French diplomat was kidnapped and two other French nationals disappeared in west Beirut Friday, a caller told international news agencies all three had been seized by the "Islamic Jihad" (Holy War) organisation.

The anonymous caller came after gunmen abducted Vice-Consul Marcel Fontaine within sight of the French embassy, and after the embassy said attaché Marcel Carton and his daughter Danielle Perez, who worked as a secretary in the cultural section, were missing.

Responsibility for the kidnappings of two Britons and an American journalist in west Beirut last week was also claimed by callers who said they were speaking for "Islamic Jihad."

Naming the three French citizens, Friday's caller said their release "depends on the cancellation of a battle deal between France and Saudi Arabia under which Riyadh would get Mirage (fighter) planes for oil."

He said "Islamic Jihad" had seized them to show its "rejection" of France's relations with an "axis" of moderate Arab states.

"Everything will return to normal" when France stops supporting Iraq in its Gulf war with Iran, the caller said.

In London, a leader of the main Muslim militia group in west Beirut said that Falangist gunmen might be responsible for the recent kidnappings.

All Al Hussein, a member of the politburo of the Shi'ite Amal movement, told a news conference: "We think the people who are kidnapping have something to do with the (mostly Christian) Falangists, trying to prove there is no security in west Beirut."

Also Friday, the car of an Italian major was stolen in west Beirut. A United Nations official confirmed that the vehicle of Maj. Giovanni Schirru, the Beirut-based liaison officer of the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon, had been stolen. But the U.N. official, who asked for anonymity, denied radio broadcast reports that Maj. Schirru had been kidnapped.

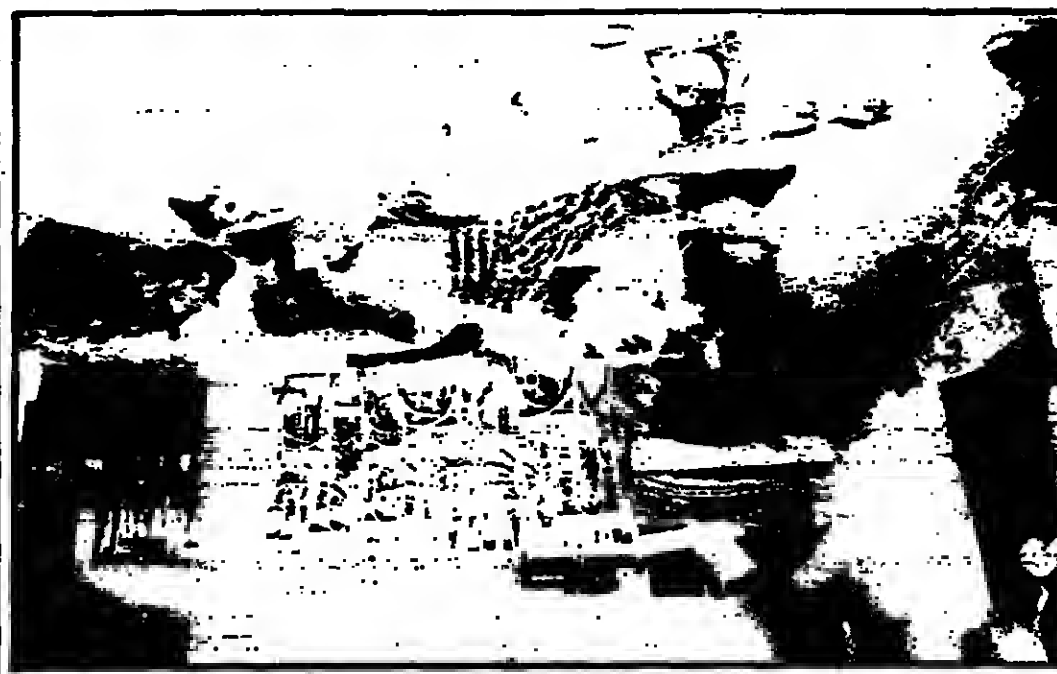
"He's safe, but his car was hijacked," the U.N. official said. Mr. Fontaine, 43, was seized by two gunmen as he was buying

(Continued on page 5)

Shultz, Gromyko to discuss summit

VIENNA (R) — Prospects for a meeting between Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev will be discussed by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko here in May, Austrian Foreign Minister Leopold Gratz said Friday. Mr. Gromyko and Mr. Shultz had accepted invitations to celebrations in Vienna marking the 30th anniversary of the Austria state treaty on May 15, Mr. Gratz said. "Gromyko and Shultz have indicated that during their meeting, they will discuss possibilities of an early summit between Reagan and Gorbachev," he told a news conference. "Personally I do think the chances of such a meeting are quite good because both sides seem ready to talk together." Austrian President Rudolf Kirchschlager had invited Mr. Gorbachev during the Moscow funeral of Mr. Gorbachev's predecessor Konstantin Chernenko.

Reagan optimistic over summit, page 8



The bodies of victims of an Israeli assault on a south Lebanese village on Thursday gathered at the village school (AP wirephoto)

Israelis continue assaults in Lebanon, kill 32, including two journalists

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Israeli troops continued their assaults on South Lebanese villages Friday after killing 30 people including two journalists and wounding a number of people on Thursday.

In Friday's attack on Ansar village, the Israelis opened fire on villagers and killed a 14-year-old girl and wounded, according to reports reaching here from the Israeli-occupied zone in South Lebanon. Twenty-six villagers, eight of them blindfolded, were taken away by the Israelis, security sources quoted by Reuters said.

The Israeli assaults followed an earlier move Thursday when the occupation army moved troops in 60 vehicles across their "front lines" in South Lebanon and advanced along several roads despite resistance from troops and militiamen, Lebanese army sources said.

Sources close to the rightist "Lebanese Forces" militia in the south told Reuters the Israelis set up positions eight kilometres from Sidon and apparently planned to stay several days.

Foreign correspondents who witnessed Thursday's killing said the two television men died when a tank shelled a group of unarmed villagers and journalists at 500 metres range (See page 2).

Continuing a month-old policy of punitive attacks on South Lebanese villages, the Israelis swept north from territory they occupy in South Lebanon and attacked villages not far from the port of Sidon.

Lebanese security sources said the Israelis attacked 10 villages on Thursday, shelling two and causing 4,000 inhabitants to flee north to Sidon and Beirut.

They said most of the dead were unarmed farmers shot down as they fled their fields at the sudden approach of the Israelis.

The Lebanese sources said 20 villagers were killed and 15 wounded in addition to the two-man CBS crew killed and three journalists and drivers wounded. The Israelis seized 150 villagers, blew up 15 homes and destroyed 50 cars, they added.

Beirut-based journalists from U.S., British and French media reported being fired on by the Israelis when they approached the scene of the raids although there was no fighting nearby.

The car of a UPTN television crew was riddled with Israeli bullets at close range and wrecked. The crew's camera was destroyed and the Lebanese cameraman injured in the head by shattered glass from the car windows.

French journalist Marine Jacquemin, 33, said she was with the CBS crew when the men were killed outside the village of Kfar Milki.

Israeli officials contended the journalists had exposed themselves to danger by going among armed guerrillas, but the Beirut-based correspondents said none was nearby when they were fired (Continued on page 5)

Peres defends killing of two journalists; Reagan says death not deliberate; Israel may end pullout in May, page 2

Klibi urges Egypt's return to Arab fold

TUNIS (R) — Arab states must unite on the key issue of the return of Egypt to its rightful place in the Arab fold, Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klibi said Friday.

In a statement to mark the 40th anniversary of the 21-member league, Mr. Klibi acknowledged that there were Arab differences, but said they should not stand in the way of a common Arab position on this and other issues.

Egypt's membership of the Tunis-based league was suspended six years ago when Cairo signed a separate peace treaty with Israel. It has not been readmitted, though it has been taken back into the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) and Jordan reestablished relations with Cairo late last year.

Mr. Klibi said: "If one accepts the principle that differences are inevitable... they should not prevent the drawing up of a common Arab position on issues which involve the common future of our countries, the most important being the Arab-Israeli conflict, the problem of Lebanon, the Iran-Iraq war and the return of Egypt to its rightful place at the heart of a unified Arab front."

Mr. Klibi also said a new draft charter was being studied by members of the league, a reference to a proposal that league decisions should be taken by majority vote rather than by consensus.

The secretary-general referred to what he called a crisis of Arab unity, which he said was con-

Thais may fight inside Kampuchea

SURIN, Thailand (AP) — Thai Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanonda said Friday that Thai forces will do "everything" to stop Vietnamese "violations" of Thai territory, including fighting Hanou's Forces inside Kampuchea. Mr. Prem, touring the northeastern province of Surin, where Vietnamese forces recently made a large-scale incursion, denied that Thailand was seeking to intensify the conflict with Vietnam. "It is up to Vietnam. If they intrude into Thailand, we will hit them hard," Mr. Prem said. Thailand is officially neutral on the war between the Vietnamese and Kampuchean resistance guerrillas, and previously has not been reported to have crossed the border to fight the Vietnamese.

Grenades hit 3 Alia offices

AMMAN (J.T.) — Three regional offices of Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airlines, came under simultaneous grenade attacks Thursday in Athens, Nicosia and Rome. Five people were injured in the attacks, which were claimed by a shadowy group calling itself "black September".

Two grenades were thrown at Alia's Athens regional office but only one exploded, slightly injuring three members of the staff including the director and two local employees.

Few minutes later, two grenades were thrown at the Alia office in Rome. Both bombs exploded and injured two local female employees.

In Nicosia, a grenade was thrown at the Alia office and caused material damage but no casualties.

In Amman, Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat, immediately after hearing news of the attacks, visited the Foreign Ministry to learn more details of the attacks. Cables were sent to Rome, Athens and Nicosia seeking more information on the incidents.

Mr. Obeidat also sent urgent cables to Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu and Italian Premier Bettino Craxi, urging them to adopt the necessary measure to provide complete protection to Jordanian interests against terrorist attacks in their respective countries.

The Civil Aviation Council of Arab countries and the Arab Air Transport Union strongly denounced Thursday's attacks

Peres defends killing of 2 newsmen; Reagan says deaths not deliberate

TEL AVIV (R) — Prime Minister Shimon Peres Friday defended the Israeli tank crew that Thursday killed two journalists working for the U.S. television network CBS in South Lebanon.

"The tank crew involved did not deviate from the strict orders concerning the protection of innocent bystanders," Mr. Peres said in a condolence letter to CBS.

"It appears that the cameramen took positions in the midst of a group of armed men who were engaged in active hostility against the IDF (Israel Defence Forces)," he contended in the letter, released by his office to reporters.

The journalists were killed while reporting on Israeli raids on Lebanese villages in which the Israeli army said it killed 21 combatants. They were both Lebanese and had been working as cameramen and soundman.

The correspondents' driver and a reporter for the Uptia Film News Agency were wounded.

CBS asked Mr. Peres Thursday to investigate the incident. A military spokesman said Friday the army would investigate "the way it investigates any shooting."

"In this case, such an investigation will be carried out, but nothing beyond this," he said.

Correspondents who witnessed the incident said the two reporters died when an Israeli tank shelled a group of unarmed villagers and journalists in Kfar Milki at 500

metres.

An Israeli military spokesman said Thursday the tank was 2.5 kilometres from the village.

An army statement contended that troops "do not shoot at civilians, including journalists who are clearly identified as such. If journalists enter territory in which armed terrorists are located, they take on themselves the risk of getting hurt."

The Israelis have banned Beirut-based reporters from crossing their lines in South Lebanon, and permit Israeli-based correspondents to enter the area only with military escorts.

In his letter, Mr. Peres rejected "any suggestion that the incident was anything but a derivative of the tragic situation in Lebanon."

He repeated what he called "Israel's long-standing commitment to freedom of the press."

Yona Gazit, assistant Israeli army spokesman, said Thursday, "We have asked the press from Beirut to beware because they were getting into an area where there is lots of hostile activity against us and terrorist activity, and we were afraid something like this might happen."

Witnesses said Tewfik Ghazawi

and Bahije Metni were killed and their driver Imad Hassan Harake wounded by Israeli tank fire while reporting from the village of Kfar Milki.

In Washington President Reagan said Thursday night he was quite certain that the deaths of two television newsmen in southern Lebanon were not deliberate acts by Israeli forces.

Mr. Reagan said at a news conference he had seen newsreel pictures of the hostilities taking place there as Israeli troops pulled back and there was "an awful lot of gunfire" by people wearing civilian clothes.

"I'm quite sure in combat of that kind this was not a deliberate killing," he said.

He described the violence in Lebanon as a tragedy, adding "all of us have a great deal of sorrow" about events there.

Told that one report from southern Lebanon said Israeli troops opened fire on television newsmen who were taking pictures, Mr. Reagan replied to a reporter: "Your own news programme tonight showed an awful lot of gunfire with very sophisticated weapons, including grenade launchers, and they were obviously being used by civilians, at least people in civilian uniform."

"So, yes, this is one of the kinds of things that happens in this kind of warfare where you're not fighting another country's army."



Armed Forces Commander in Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker lays a wreath at the new Karameh Martyrs Monument in Irbid (Petra photo)

Iraqi commander says Iranian attack aimed at isolating south

BAGHDAD (R) — An Iraqi field commander said in the Defence Ministry daily Al Qadisiya Friday that Iran's latest offensive in the southern Iraqi marshlands had been aimed at isolating Baghdad's forces in the south.

Major-General Sultan Hashem Ahmad, commander of operations east of the Tigris River, said the Iranians planned to cross the dry land west of the border straddling Hawzah Marshes towards the Hammar Marshes.

Iraq said earlier this week it had defeated the Iranian offensive launched on March 11 in some of the bitterest fighting of the 54-month-old Gulf war.

The Hammar Marshes extend from the southern Iraqi city of Nasiriyah close to the second main road linking Baghdad and the southern port of Basra. They lie west of the Tigris and the major Baghdad-Basra Highway.

The commander said the defeat of the Iranian offensive, which he said had taken more than a year to prepare, would have "deep effects on the future of the war."

He said Iraq was aware of the Iranian aim and had drawn up plans to counteract it.

Iraq said Thursday it had launched a "limited" attack on Iranian positions east of the Basra sector of the southern front, killing 426 Iranians and seizing Iranian pos-

itions over a two kilometre area.

Iraq Thursday warned residents of the southern Iranian city of Ahwaz to leave within 72 hours or face Iraqi air raids or missile attacks.

An Iraqi spokesman said the warning was to avoid exposing Ahwaz residents to the danger of Iraqi attacks "to be directed against vital economic targets in the city."

The spokesman said Ahwaz residents had 72 hours, from noon Thursday (0900 GMT) to leave.

The spokesman said Iraq planned to destroy all Ahwaz's "economic targets."

Ahwaz, 60 kilometres from the southern Iraqi border, has a large population of Iranian Arabs.

"Due to the existence of vital economic targets in the city (Ahwaz) and the necessity of inflicting damage upon the enemy, we call upon the city's people to evacuate it within three days from midday today," the spokesman said.

He advised its residents to stay away until Iraq destroyed the city's economic targets but did not give a specific time.

Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini has pledged Iran will continue the Gulf war as "international efforts mounted to end the 4-1/2-year conflict."

In a message marking Thursday's Iranian New Year, Khomeini called for an end to more than two weeks of attacks on civilian centres, saying Iran had been forced to retaliate by Baghdad.

A High Command communiqué in Baghdad said 27,200 Iranian dead had been counted in the marshes of south east Iraq, where Iraq crushed a week-long Iranian offensive three days ago.

There was no fresh word from Tehran on the outcome of the fighting. Baghdad-based journalists taken to the marshes three days ago crossed wide areas of the battlefield, going almost to the border, and reported seeing hundreds of Iranian dead.

The United States expects a long period of instability in the Gulf region because of the war between Iran and Iraq, Assistant Defence Secretary Richard Armitage said Thursday.

"We anticipate a prolonged period of instability in the region that will continue to pose complex and dynamic challenges for the defence of U.S. interests," he told a congressional subcommittee.

Mr. Armitage said Washington expected the countries of the region, either alone or in concert, "will be able to deal with most, if not all, internal subversion and intra-regional conflicts."

Jordan marks 17th Karameh anniversary

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan Thursday marked the 17th anniversary of the battle of Karameh during which the Jordanian Armed Forces repelled an Israeli invasion across the River Jordan and inflicted a crushing defeat.

Ceremonies were held on this occasion in the Jordan Valley where the historic battle took place.

Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker attended the main ceremony at the battle site near the unknown soldier's monument where he, together with high ranking officers laid wreaths at the martyrs monument.

The Armed Forces Mufti delivered a speech in which he praised the Jordanian soldiers' heroic stand in 1968 and paid tribute to the martyrs who fell during the battle.

Following the speech, hulgers played the beat of the Last Rest, then the crowd prayed for the martyrs' souls.

Attending the ceremony were Balqa Governor Mohammad Al Khatib, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lt-Gen. Fathi Abu Taleh, the mayor of Shuneh, Universities' students and senior officials.

Later Thursday Sharif Zaid attended another ceremony held in Irbid to mark the occasion. He unveiled the Karameh Martyrs Monument set up by Yarmouk University in King Hussein's Square near the southern approaches to the city and laid a wreath.

President of Yarmouk University Adnan Badran organised the event, presented Gen. Sharif Zaid the University shield and standard, whereas, Irbid Mayor Abdul Razzak Tubeishat presented the general and Dr. Badran with the Irbid Municipality shield.

Irbid Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin, the commander of the 12th Royal Mechanised Division and a number of military and civil officials attended the ceremony.

Anani, Swiss leader discuss cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Jawad Al Anani called on the president of the Swiss Confederation in Bern and discussed with him ways of promoting bilateral cooperation.

At the meeting they reviewed economic links between Jordan and Switzerland and the latter's contribution towards carrying out Jordan's coming five year development plan.

The president voiced his appreciation to Jordan under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein for its efforts aimed at establishing a just and durable peace in the Middle East.

During his stay in Switzerland, the minister will sign an agreement under which Jordan will obtain a Swiss loan to help finance Jordanian development schemes.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iraq, Chile establish diplomatic ties

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq and Chile have decided to establish diplomatic relations from Friday, the official Iraqi News Agency said. It said they would not have resident envoys in each other's countries.

Bangladesh drops Baghdad flight

DHAKA (R) — The Bangladesh national airline Biman Friday announced it was cancelling flights to Dubai and Baghdad. Biman officials said the suspension was due to "obvious unfavourable operational conditions beyond our control." The flights travel routes near the Iran-Iraq war zone. They did not say when the flights would be resumed.

Plane missing over Morocco

RABAT (R) — A big search was under way Thursday near the central Moroccan city of Fez for a private American plane missing since Tuesday with three men on board, two of them Britons, the aircraft's owner said. Hundreds of residents joined in the search for the single-engine Cessna 300 plane, which disappeared in high winds just before sunset after doing location reconnaissance work in the desert on a feature film, "Jewel of the Nile", for 20th Century Fox. Joel Douglas, co-producer of the film and the aircraft's owner, told Reuters the plane on the plane were American pilot Richard Kotch from Kansas, and Britons Richard Dawkins, a designer, and Brian Coates, a production manager. Fez Airport lost contact with the pilot after he had radioed to say he would be landing shortly. The plane was on its way from Errachidia in the Sahara.

Protesters, police clash at Cairo Trade Fair

CAIRO (AP) — Demonstrators protesting Israel's participation in the Cairo International Trade Fair burned replicas of the U.S. and Israeli flags on Friday and clashed with security police while trying to pull an Israeli flag from a flagpole.

Reporters on the scene saw plainclothes security men arrest five demonstrators.

After demonstrating at the fairground for several hours, chanting anti-American and anti-Israeli slogans, the protesters tried to remove an Israeli flag from a pole at the main gate as they were about to leave.

As one demonstrator tried without success to climb the pole, others attacked a half-dozen security guards, first scuffling with them and then withdrawing and showering them with stones. The guards charged with sticks, bearing several demonstrators.

The demonstrators knocked down the Israeli flagpole and tore up the flag, witnesses said.

It was the second anti-Israel demonstration at the fair since it opened on March 9 and the first manifestation of hostility toward the United States.

The demonstration began peacefully outside the Israeli pavilion

Jordanian team leaves for Togo

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian parliamentary delegation left Amman Thursday for Togo to take part in an International Parliamentary Union meeting due to open on March 25.

The delegation which is led by Dr. Hazem Nuseiba, includes Sami Judeh, Marwan Humud, Daoud Suleiman, Ahmad Al Aqileh and Fayed Shawabkeh, representing both houses of parliament.

Syria to continue flights to Tehran

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian Arab Airways says it will maintain regular flights to Tehran despite Iraq's recent warning.

"Contrary to what was reported abroad, Syrian Arab Airways has not stopped flights to Tehran. No party is entitled to intercept or attack civil aviation," Syrian newspapers quoted the national airline's general manager as saying.

Israel may reportedly end pullout in May

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli troops will complete their withdrawal from South Lebanon in May, four months earlier than previously planned, Israeli newspapers reported Friday.

The reports came as Israel faced growing pressure to speed up its pullout from South Lebanon in the light of an upsurge in attacks on Israeli soldiers. Eighteen soldiers have been killed this month, bringing to 641 the number of Israelis killed since Israel invaded Lebanon in June 1982.

In an effort to quell resistance attacks on its soldiers, Israel has raided Lebanese villages, making arrests, destroying homes and confiscating weapons.

The Jerusalem Post reported that Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir of the hawkish Likud Bloc, who voted against the phased pullout approved by cabinet on Jan. 14, had withdrawn his objections.

"There is no purpose now in trying to change the decision regarding the withdrawal," he was quoted as telling the English-

language daily.

Mr. Shamir's decision removed the last political obstacle to an early withdrawal, the Post said.

The cabinet is scheduled to approve the start of the third and final stage of the evacuation by April 15 and the last soldier will leave Lebanon by the first week of May, he said.

The Haaretz newspaper, in an article written by its senior political reporter, said the evacuation will be over by mid-May unless it is delayed by logistic problems.

TV & RADIO	
JORDAN TELEVISION	
MAIN CHANNEL	
06:00 Morning Programme	17:00 News
06:25 Children's Programme	17:10 News
06:35 English Teaching	17:15 News
06:50 First Aid	17:20 News
07:10 Koran	17:25 News
07:15 Children's Programme	17:30 News
07:30 Animals Animals	17:35 News
07:40 Candid Camera	17:40 News
07:50 Local Programme	17:45 News
08:00 Programme Review	17:50 News
08:10 News Programme	17:55 News
08:20 A documentary on Meteorology	18:00 News
08:30 Arabic Series	18:05 News
08:40 Programme Review	18:10 News
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09:00 World News	18:20 News
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Week's road accidents claim 11 lives

AMMAN (Petra) — Eleven people were killed and 108 other persons were injured in 155 road accidents during last week, according to the Public Security Department's weekly report. The bulletin added that 107 of these accidents took place in Amman.

Egyptian transport delegation arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — Cooperation in the fields of marine and land transport between Jordan and Egypt will be discussed Saturday at the Ministry of Transport, during a meeting between Jordanian officials and an Egyptian delegation, which arrived here on Friday. The Egyptian delegation comprises a number of high-ranking officials in the field of land and sea transport and is headed by Egyptian Minister of Transport, Communications and Marine Transport Suleiman Mitwalli who will arrive here on Monday.

Phosphate company announces profit

AMMAN (Petra) — Share holders in the Jordanian Phosphate Mining Company (JPSC) will enjoy a 20 per cent return on their shares from the company's profit for 1984, according to JPSC Director General Wasef Azar who said that the company has completed its 1984 accounts and that its net profit is JD 12.3 million.

WHO team tours medical centres

AMMAN (J.T.) — A three-member World Health Organisation (WHO) team Thursday made a tour of hospitals and medical centres in Jordan and were briefed on the services offered to the public.

Dentists prepare for conference

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Dentists Association (JDA) board Thursday reviewed the association's preparations for the fourth Jordanian conference on dentistry scheduled for April 15. Scientific and medical topics on dentistry and cooperation between dentists in this field will be discussed during the conference.

'Wizard' rapes two young sisters in their home

AMMAN (J.T.) — A 60-year old man who practiced witchcraft has been sentenced to 15 years in prison after raping two young sisters at their home.

A report in the Al Ra'i Arabic daily newspaper said that the man, identified only as A.M.K., used to dabble in witchcraft and tricked people into believing that he was able to cure diseases through his 'craft' and his dealings with genies.

A family which fell victim to this man had complained to him that their only son was suffering from an ailment which caused him to lose his sense of hearing and that no specialist was able to cure him. The conjuror claimed he was able to cure the boy through his 'craft' and amulets and also through contacts with genies and spirits and the family agreed to take him in into their home to try his magic on the boy and cure him, the paper said.

The report said that the conjuror spent a whole week in the family's home during which he was able to persuade them to pay him JD 3,000 and to bury their jewellery and the rest of their money in a sealed tin underground which was done accordingly. The man later stole the money and the gold items, the paper said.

One day later, the man found himself alone in the house with the two young daughters, aged 11 and nine, and raped them, but their screams alerted the mother who was just arriving home and she raised the alarm.



ZEIN MARKS MOTHER'S DAY: Her Majesty Queen Zein (left) Thursday patronises the Um Al Hussein Orphanage Society's celebration of mother's day at Al Hussein Palace of Culture. The general secretary of the society, Hasan Al Zein, expressed the orphanage's gratitude to the Queen Mother for her due attention to the welfare of the society and its orphans. Queen Zein, who is also the honorary president of Um Al Hussein Orphanage Society, donated JD 1,000 to the orphanage which takes care of 200 children between the ages of 6 and 16. Attending the celebration were Her Highness Princess Beama, President of the Um Al Hussein Orphanage Society Sharifah Fatima and wives of Jordanian ministers and senior governmental officials. (Petra photo)

U.N. official concludes talks on housing projects, developing local communities

AMMAN (Petra) — United Nations assistant secretary general and Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements Sumihiro Kuyama left Amman Friday after a several day visit to Jordan during which he met with senior Jordanian officials.

During the visit Mr. Kuyama held discussions with Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Hamdullah Al Nabulsi, Minister of Planning Abdullah Nsour, Housing Corporation Director General Shafiq Zawaideh, Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) President Mohammad Saleh Al Keilani and Housing Bank Director General Zuhair Khouri on further strengthening and promoting the existing cooperation between the U.N. centre and Jordan in housing and the development of local communities. He also visited a number of historical and tourist sites in Jordan, the Abu Nsir housing projects as well as the housing projects in the Jordan Valley.

Discussing the result of his visit to Jordan, Mr. Kuyama told the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, that Jordan, thanks to the wise leadership of His Majesty King Hussein, has reached an advanced position at all levels and that it has gone a long way in the housing and services fields. He added: "I appreciate the role being played by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and his strong and absolute support for U.N. activities."

Mr. Kuyama pointed out that he has extended an invitation to Prince Hassan to address the forthcoming conference on human settlements to be held in Kingston, Jamaica between April 29 and May 10 because of the Crown Prince's great interest in human affairs.

"My talks with Jordanian officials concentrated on expanding the scope of cooperation, including the future projects to be implemented by the two sides in accordance with the forthcoming Jordanian five-year development plan," he explained.

Projects in Jordan

Regarding the centre's project being carried out in Jordan, Mr. Kuyama pointed out that there are four projects under construction which are concerned with studying housing strategy in Jordan, drawing up an integrated regional plan for the development of local

communities as well as setting up low-cost health centres in the Bani Hamidah villages areas south of Madaba. The health centres project will be carried out in cooperation with the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), he said. These projects are carried out in cooperation with the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, the Ministry of Planning and the Housing Corporation, according to Mr. Kuyama.

A training course, which will be the first of its kind in the Arab region, on the design and implementation of urban projects will be held in Amman at the Housing Corporation on Sept. 1 with the participation of 15 Arab countries, Mr. Kuyama said. He also added that another project is being studied by the Jordanian government and the U.N. centre to develop Al Shalala area in Aqaba. He concluded that the centre is working towards developing the existing relations with Jordan to set up more feasible projects for low-income and poor people within a programme for the International Year for the Homeless which will be marked in 1987.

Foreign minister marks Arab League's 40th anniversary

Jordan keen to promote Arab unity, Masri says

AMMAN — Jordan, along with the Arab Nation, Friday marked the 40th anniversary of the Arab League. On the occasion Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri issued a statement in which he said that the Arab League's establishment marked a significant event in the course of Arab history and that the anniversary is of special importance of Jordan which was among the seven Arab countries which signed a charter to bring the Arab League into being and because Jordan has been and still is keen to promote the league's efforts to develop coordination and cooperation among Arab countries with the ultimate goal of establishing Arab unity.

In his statement Mr. Masri said: "The Arab League has, since its establishment and through its various agencies and institutions, endeavoured to bolster Arab action, and has worked towards achieving the long-aspired Arab unity for the purpose of confronting the dangers and challenges that confronted and still confront the Arabs everywhere."

Mr. Masri went on to say that the Arab League has been active in all efforts to bring Arab countries together, to strengthen solidarity among Arab states and to enhance the league's joint defence pact. The Arab League has represented the Arabs and defended their causes in all international conferences and has been instrumental in promoting the Arab countries' economic, social, educational and cultural activities through its various specialised agencies and organisations, he said. The Arab League has been organising and sponsoring Arab summit meetings which are deemed essential in the present circumstances, which require a firm Arab stand in the face of all eventualities, Mr. Masri continued.

"We now realise that Arab unity has become an aspired dream in view of the bitter reality which we now witness and the divisions and differences that are splitting Arab ranks. These divisions and disputes have succeeded in preventing the convening of an Arab summit meeting for a third consecutive year. The Arabs are now living through painful circumstances and therefore should be frank with themselves about their problems and the root-cause of their disputes and differences."

In Jordan we believe that these are caused largely due to the lack of a political decision on the part of every Arab state to strengthen the Arab League. These divisions are, also due to the fact that each Arab country conducts separate dealings with the superpowers and with other major world nations, even in matters of national interest and on issues that affect all parts of the Arab World," Mr. Masri said in his statement.

Jordan has long realised the adverse effects of such situation and the negative impact of continued Arab divisions and lack of confidence among Arab states and therefore has never stopped calling for an Arab summit meeting that can put matters again in their right perspective, and can tackle various national issues, the minister said.

An Arab summit is required now to bolster the Arab countries' stand and to enhance Arab countries joint action and solidarity and this principle has prompted Jordan to call for an amendment

to the Arab League's charter whereby all resolutions can be passed by a majority vote rather than unanimity, be continued. Jordan is keen on preventing the minority from paralysing the work of the majority and this is in line with sound democratic function which can help the Arab League shoulder its responsibility," according to Mr. Masri's statement.

Kilbi urges Arabs to bury their differences

Meanwhile in Tunis, the Arab League's 40th anniversary slipped by without fanfare with celebrations cancelled because of the Gulf war and Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Klibi appealed to member states to bury their differences.

Mr. Klibi singled out the readmission of Egypt, which was suspended from the 21-member league six years ago after its peace treaty with Israel, as one of the key issues facing Arab states.

In a statement marking the anniversary of the Tunis-based league, Mr. Klibi said that Arab differences should not stand in the way of a united Arab stance on Egypt's return to its rightful place at the heart of the Arab World.

If Cairo were readmitted to the league this would represent its final reintegration into the Arab community, but Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and other Arab states are bitterly opposed to such a move.

The league cancelled a reception Friday to mark its founding on March 22, 1945, because of the continuing Gulf war and events in South Lebanon.

Technical committee to study feasibility of regional airports

AMMAN (J.T.) — A technical committee from the Ministry of Transport has been formed to study the need for small commercial airports in the country, according to the Ministry of Transport.

In reply to a question on the issue submitted by Parliament member Youssef Al Adeo, the ministry said that the study will be completed in two months and will

determine the need for new airports or the renovation of existing old airports. The reply also said that these airports could be used by small fixed-wing aircraft or by helicopters in the field on domestic transportation if a need for such services was found to exist.

The committee will decide on the possibility of reviving the old landing strip at Ma'an, the ministry added.

University of Jordan archaeologists document successive phases of occupation at Tell Mazar

By Rami G. Khouri

Special to the Jordan Times

JORDAN VALLEY — Tell Mazar is one of a series of archaeological sites in the Jordan Valley that were occupied during much of the Iron Age (1200-332 B.C.). Though Nelson Glueck in the 1930s identified it from its surface pottery as an important Iron Age site, Tell Mazar remained untouched until Dr. Khair Yassine and his students at the University of Jordan excavated it during four seasons, between 1977-81.

Tell Mazar is located three kilometres north of the well known Tell Deir Alla and some three kilometres east of the Jordan River. It rises 24 metres above the valley floor, at an altitude of 250 metres below sea level.

In antiquity, the settlement exploited the year-round waters of the Zarqa River to irrigate the rich agricultural lands all around the tell. The ancient identification of the site remains unknown, but the modern name of Tell Mazar is

thought to come from the nearby mosque and pilgrimage site of Mazar Abu 'Ushaidah, where the early Islamic general Abu 'Ushaidah was buried in battle with the Byzantine forces.

Dr. Yassine's excavations have revealed successive phases of occupation spanning the period between the 11th Century B.C. and the middle of the 4th Century B.C., though there are also signs of human occupation going back to the 13th Century B.C. There are two parts to the site: the main tell, and an associated sanctuary/cemetery area to the north-west.

Earliest remains

The earliest architectural remains on the tell are from the 8th/7th Centuries B.C., when the Ammonite Kingdom controlled the central valley area from its capital at Rabbath-Ammon (modern Amman).

The formerly independent Ammonite Kingdom had come under the sway of the Assyrian

Kingdom after the campaigns of Tiglath-Pileser III in 732 B.C. While they paid tribute to the Assyrians, the Ammonites enjoyed a measure of autonomy, and prospered from the trade that flourished under the regional security provided by the Assyrian Empire.

Remains from this Iron Age II period in the 8th/7th Centuries B.C. include parts of a building with a square courtyard, whose floor was paved with flag stones. A storage jar in one room was still filled with wheat grain, while in another corner of the same room a bathtub was built on a brick platform.

The rooms from this early settlement were destroyed by fire at the end of the 8th Century B.C., perhaps, as Dr. Yassine has speculated, reflecting the destruction inflicted by the 701 B.C. campaign of the Assyrian King Sennacherib (704-681 B.C.).

During the 7th Century B.C., the site was rebuilt and included a large, neo-Babylonian building that seems to have been used as a residence. It had a stone-paved open courtyard surrounded by rooms used for different purposes, including cooking and storage. A series of tabernacles, or cooking ovens, were found from this level. There is no evidence of destruction at the end of this phase.

The next phase of occupation, in the 7th/6th Century B.C., reflected a period of prosperity and peace judging by the remains at the top of the mound of a large and impressive building. It commanded a fine view of the entire central Jordan Valley and has been called a "palace fort". It was composed of rooms at two different levels, connected by a staircase.

The utilitarian lower rooms included a kitchen and rooms for storage, weaving and meat preparation. Because of the smaller size of the tell and the relatively more sophisticated mud-brick architecture, compared to other Iron Age tells in the area, Dr. Yassine speculates that this may have been the residence of a local governor or other official.

This settlement's life ended suddenly and violently, with great fires destroying the buildings. There were no human skeletons, but many intact objects and full storage jars, suggesting that the inhabitants of the settlement escaped



View of Tell Mazar

aped the final destruction by fire, but could not take many belongings with them. Dr. Yassine believes this destruction may date from the Neo-Babylonian conquests of the area, during the reign of King Nabuchadnezzar II (605-562 B.C.).

Prosperous era

During the 7th Century B.C., the Ammonite, Moabite and Edomite kingdoms in Jordan had prospered as self-governing vassals of the great Assyrian Kingdom to the north. This era of prosperity ended with the Neo-Babylonian conquests of Jordan/Palestine around 586 B.C., which may be recorded in the destruction levels at Tell Mazar. In the middle of the 6th Century B.C., Neo-Babylonian rule in Jordan and the Ammonite Kingdom both ended when the Persians conquered the area and ruled for two centuries.

The tell was once again inhabited in the 5th Century B.C., when intensive filling operations levelled off the destroyed remains of the 6th Century B.C. village. Once again, the arrangement of the buildings shows rooms around a central courtyard.

The quality of mud-brick construction seems inferior to that of the previous settlement, though the 5th Century B.C. buildings were planned in a uniform and orderly manner. These seem to have been used as "private industrial houses", based on the finds of many domestic utensils and

Industrial artifacts

This settlement dates from the two centuries of Achaemenid Persian domination of Jordan/Palestine, from 538-332 B.C., though direct Persian influence in the area is thought to have been superficial. The Persian influence at Tell Mazar is reflected in some of the excavated objects, including stamp seals and impressions, arms, metal products, bronze and silver jewellery, and ceramics.

The last occupation phase at Tell Mazar in antiquity was during the late Persian years of the 4th Century B.C. only decades before the armies of Alexander the Great conquered the area in 332 B.C. and ushered in the era of Hellenism.

The most striking feature of the late Persian occupation was dozens of deep, rounded storage pits and silos. Some are over two metres wide and four metres deep. Usually, but not always, lined with bricks, stones or mud-bricks, these cylindrical and barrel-shaped pits were used to store chaff, charred grains, pottery, copper, stone vessels, or just rubbish.

Grain silos

The excavators believe such grain silos were built on the summits of Jordan Valley tells for good reason: The dry climate of the valley and the steep slope and compact deposit of the tell, which promoted rainwater to run off quickly, combined to produce ideal grain-storage conditions. The sto-

rage of grain on a large scale (also attested at Tell Deir Alla and Tell Safidiyeh) may have been designed as security against famines or represented a tax-gathering facility or support for a military force.

The tell seems to have been abandoned to 333 B.C., when Alexander the Great's armies conquered the area. In the Hellenistic period, the former settlements on the valley floor were largely abandoned and turned into grain storage facilities, while new settlements were established in the foothills of the valley.

The second part of the site is a low (one-metre-high) mound located about 400 metres north-west of the main tell, covering an area of over 1,200 square metres.

This area was first occupied in the 11th/10th Centuries B.C., during the early Iron Age. The excavations revealed the remains of a large, rectangular-plan building measuring 24 x 16 metres. Dr. Yassine has called this an "open court sanctuary", as it consists of an open courtyard flanked by rooms.

The solid 1.2-metre-thick walls of the rooms and courtyard were made of mud-bricks. The sanctuary seems to have been built towards the end of the 11th Century B.C. and destroyed late in the 10th Century B.C.

Three rooms excavated on the north side of the courtyard produced cult vessels (cylindrical incense burners and chalices), underground cisterns, storage jars and a great deal of pottery. The large courtyard, with its main entrance in the south wall, facing Tell Mazar, was covered with a thick layer of ashly debris and burnt materials, including pottery sherds, animal bones, grain and fuel materials (brushwood and charcoal). There were also three tabernacles, or ovens, in the courtyard, a shaft tomb with three male burials and a stone table near the middle of the courtyard that may have served as an altar.

The evidence suggests the sanctuary was the site of large-scale food processing, with refuse being disposed of in the courtyard. Dr. Yassine believes the sanctuary served a public purpose, but was not a place of large-scale public worship.

After the sanctuary went out of use, this area north-west of the tell seems to have been deserted for nearly 500 years. It was used again

in the 5th Century B.C., this time as a cemetery, and 84 of its graves were excavated in the late 1970s. The skeletal remains show the average life expectancy of the Ammonite people at that time was around 33 years.

Warriors' graves

Many of the warlike objects excavated from the tombs, such as arrowheads, swords, daggers and spearheads, suggest the male burials were those of warriors. Five different kinds of burials were documented, including brick- and stone-lined pits, skeletons in shallow ceramic jars and skeletons in bathtub-like clay boxes with handles.

Some of the graves contained stamp or cylinder seals, which were placed on the deceased's chest or hung from the belt. A few

had the name of the dead person such as "Shu'al, son of Elisha". Most are important for their artistic and iconographic information, showing the cultural links between the Ammonite people and some of the nearby civilisations in Persia, Egypt and Assyria.

The seals, made of coloured marble, agate, lapis lazuli, jasper or limestone had a variety of motifs. Among these were winged bulls and lions, a rider on a galloping horse aiming his bow and arrow at a gazelle whose foreleg is being bitten by a god, a Neo-Babylonian worshipper, a representation of two eyes around a nose, a cult scene of two worshippers flanking a stylus and a spade, two animals flanking a hero, two falcon-headed solar deities in human form flanking a stylized tree and walking bovine animals, to mention only a few.



Many of the tombs and graves excavated at Tell Mazar contained war-like artifacts such as spearheads, arrows and daggers, suggesting that several warriors were buried at the site.

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ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's
Al Ra'i: Crimes cannot obstruct
Jordan's effort

THOSE WHO perpetrated and carried out the bomb attacks on Alia offices in Rome, Athens and Nicosia have done so with the purpose of obstructing Jordan's pan-Arab policies and thwarting efforts for rebuilding Arab solidarity. These wicked elements who attacked Alia offices have probably been dissatisfied with Jordan's support for Iraq in its war with Iran and are displeased with Jordan's endeavours to unify Arab action in the face of enemy plans, and therefore they resorted to terrorist actions.

Those who launched this attack have become appalled at the successes of the Iraqi armed forces in repulsing Iranian aggression and Lebanese resistance actions in South Lebanon, and therefore they resorted to criminal actions to make up for their frustration. These evil elements are wrong to believe that Jordan will succumb to acts of attrition or terror because this country is determined to pursue its national role and will never allow acts of terror to prevail or influence its pan-Arab stand.

Al Dustour: Sign of bankruptcy

THE COWARDLY attacks on Alia offices in Athens, Rome and Nicosia prove that the perpetrators had gone bankrupt and cannot offer anything to serve Arab causes. They have resorted to terrorist attacks with the hope of obstructing Jordan's march towards rebuilding Arab solidarity and unifying Arab ranks in the face of the common enemy. The only thing that such attacks can achieve is distorting the image of Arab people in the Western world.

The endangering of innocent civilians in such terrorist actions is not an act of bravery nor is it a nationalist feat, but rather an evil and wicked action that can only strengthen Jordan's determination to pursue its right course and maintain its pan-Arab policies. We had hoped that the perpetrators of these actions directed their attacks on the Israeli enemy in occupied Golan or southern Lebanon, rather than turning their evil attention to Jordanian commercial installations.

We appreciate what the government is doing to protect national interests, but we call on foreign governments to increase protection for Jordanian interests to safeguard the lives of people and property.

Sawt Al Shaab: Serving enemy ends

AGAIN WE are faced with terrorist actions against our institutions abroad and again we are stabbed in the back by traitors to the cause of the Arab Nation. The attacks on Alia offices abroad constitute an attack on the dignity of the Arabs everywhere and can harm their causes. The bomb attacks should also be regarded as another link in a long series of evil and terrorist attempts to harm Jordanian interests and stability.

The terrorist actions had continued in the past but did not succeed in diverting Jordan from its right course nor did they achieve anything for the terrorists except only to serve the desires and objectives of the enemy. These attacks should be directed on Israeli interests and on all the enemies of the Arab Nation. Thus we consider the perpetrators of such cowardly attacks as being the enemies of Arab solidarity and evil elements in the body of the Arab Nation.

The attacks, which coincided with Jordan's celebrations of the Karamah battle anniversary and the celebrations by the Iraqi people of their victory over the Iranian invaders, clearly indicate that the perpetrators are in the pay of our enemies and are committing these crimes to serve the purpose of these enemies.

Thursday's
Al Ra'i: U.S. places obstacles

IT IS essential for U.S. envoy Richard Murphy and the American administration to understand the fact that Jordan can never act for the Palestine Liberation Organisation in any negotiations and will never involve itself in separate talks with Israel to end the Middle East issue. This reminder is necessary in reply to Murphy's statements quoted by Israeli Radio in which he said that Washington has reiterated its views to Israel lately that it wants to see direct Jordanian-Israeli negotiations.

If Murphy and the American administration are intent on advocating this policy, then the U.S. envoy's forthcoming mission in the region is bound to face total failure. Failure means that the United States is determined to place obstacles in the path of any solution. Coinciding with Murphy's statement in Washington, reports said that the American ambassador to Egypt had told President Mubarak his country is still committed to maintain the peace momentum in the Middle East. These are totally contradictory statements and can deceive no-one.

If the United States is really interested in achieving peace, then it should at first adopt a balanced policy towards the Middle East issue. The United States should not allow the opportunity of peace, presented through the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement of Feb. 11, to be lost, and should realise that the Arabs' recent successes in South Lebanon and in the Gulf battlefront against their enemies are signs of change. They indicate that the Arab giant has after all been able to stand up again and assume the initiative.

Sawt Al Shaab: Karamah stands
for steadfastness

THURSDAY JORDAN celebrated the 17th anniversary of the battle of Karamah, in which the armed forces achieved a remarkable success over the Israeli invaders. The battle of Karamah that took place in the Jordan Valley in 1968 marked an awakening of the Arabs following their defeat in June 1967 and showed clearly that through sacrifice they can repel aggression and regain their lands.

The battle of Karamah was a symbol of steadfastness in the face of colonialist ambitions and expansionist designs and represented a firm repulse of Israeli aggressive policies in the Arab region. The same Israeli invaders met with the same firm confrontation and steadfastness during their invasion of Lebanon, and the resistance there is making them pay a high price for their adventures.

Arab confrontation of aggression is also manifest in Iraq's heroic stand and its defence of Arab soil on the eastern flank. Iraq, like Jordan and the Lebanese resistance, has proved beyond doubt that only steadfastness and sacrifice can foil enemy expansionist aims in our lands and can repulse all acts of aggression and conspiracies against the Arab Nation.

A week-long fighting for regaining Huwaizah

By Mohammad Salam
Associated Press

HUWAIZAH, Iraq — The thud of artillery and rocket explosions echoed across this marsh and at dusk Monday, when Iraqi tanks rolled eastward to the border, along a newly-built network of dusty roads.

A pair of legs in mud-covered boots protruded from a ditch on one side of the tank track, with tens of corpses strewn about the expanse beyond.

Iraqi soldiers, smiling broadly, said that "plenty of them (Iran soldiers) are buried" under the track, built during the Iraqi counter-offensive against the Iranian invaders last week.

A group of foreign and Arab reporters were escorted by Iraqi military personnel during a tour of Huwaizah, a 3,000-square-kilometre marsh and straddling the border with Iraq's Gulf war foe, Iran.

The region was clear of any Iranian military presence, and Iraqi officers told reporters that the invaders were repulsed after seven days of battles.

The Iranians, they said, had tried to punch through Huwaizah and seize the main highway that links Baghdad to Basra, Iraq's southern capital.

The Iraqi general command announced Monday that more than 100,000 Iranian invaders were "crushed and evicted" in Huwaizah at enormous losses which, they said, included "23,000 soldiers killed, about twice as many wounded, and large numbers of others taken captive."

"There's not a single Iranian (soldier) on our soil," said the commander of the east of Tigris (river) forces, Maj.-Gen. Sultan Hashem.

He added that the oil-rich Majnoon Island, on the southeastern edge of Huwaizah, was not included in the latest fighting, adding that the island "remains in Iranian hands."

Majnoon was seized in a similar Iranian offensive in February last year.

Maj.-Gen. Hashem, talking to reporters at his command post near the town of Azair on the Basra-Baghdad highway, said the Iraqis had expected the Iranian assault and had prepared a "counter-plan to contain and destroy the thrust."

He said the Iraqis on Mar. 11 landed eight 13,000-strong division on the west bank of the Tigris, in an attempt to capture the Baghdad-Basra highway at Azair.

"They erected a number of pontoon bridges in the marshes and across the river," said Maj.-Gen. Hashem, adding that the invaders managed to hold the area for a "short time... but we took it back

into positions on the Iranian side of Huwaizah. Four Iranian shells crashed into the 20-kilometre stretch of marsh and southeast of Azair, where reporters happened to be moving in army buses.

Iraqi soldiers were busy piling sandbags, on both sides of the narrow trails, setting up firing positions, as hundreds of Soviet-made T-62 and T-54 tanks were deploying in the region with their cannon pointed to the east.

Iraqi soldiers conceded there still were "some isolated pockets of Iranian resistance in tiny reeds scattered about the shallow waters between the Iraqi and Iranian sides of Huwaizah."

Reporters were not allowed to proceed from Azair to Basra.

Howitzers and multiple rocket launchers west of the highway were meanwhile firing away at the rate of 10 shells per minute

what can be achieved," a West European diplomat in London said. There is not going to be any overnight end to the fighting because the conditions of each side are so clearly unacceptable to the other. So the best thing is to try to limit the level of the killing."

Foreign ministers of Gulf states, which bankroll Iraq's war effort and have themselves suffered economically as the war has dragged on, met in Riyadh and reaffirmed their support for Iraq. They urged Iraq "to respond to international efforts to end the conflict and respect its border with Iran."

King Hussein and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt discussed the war in Baghdad with the Iraqi president and also urged Tehran to negotiate.

The war stems from a border dispute on the Shatt Al-Arab waterway at the head of the Gulf which Baghdad and Tehran settled 10 years ago with Algerian help.

The war has seen several big land battles across the long border. But they appear to have produced a stalemate in which neither country has won a decisive long-term advantage.

Iraq has the advantage in combat planes, tanks and artillery. Iran has more troops, although a rumoured spring offensive by 500,000 men a year ago failed to take place.

Air war in Gulf has governments outside region worried

By John Rogers

LONDON — Air strikes on Iranian and Iraqi cities and threats to airlines have stirred anxiety about the intractable Gulf war, which the world has learned to forget.

Countries outside the region have become accustomed to grinding, inconclusive land battles in one of this century's longest wars which has shown no sign of a negotiated solution after four-and-a-half years despite international appeals.

The world has come largely to ignore the Gulf war except when it has impinged on external interests by threatening oil supplies or security.

In addition to the air action, this month witnessed some of the heaviest ground fighting of the war. Iraq appears to have driven back an Iranian offensive in marshes in southern Iraq.

Alarm spread this week only after the air war escalated, Iraq warned airlines to stay out of Iran's air space and Tehran said the whole region — through which main air routes between Europe and Asia lie — could suffer "air insecurity".

Foreign residents poured out of Tehran and some airlines cancelled flights to both capitals.

Earlier, concern mounted when Iraqi planes attacked Tehran. Explosions rocked Baghdad and Iran said it had hit the Iraqi capital with missiles, a version Iraq disputed.

The last big Gulf war scare outside the region was last May, when Iraq stepped up attacks on ships trading with Iran and Tehran struck merchant vessels of Iraq's Arab backers, raising the prospect of disrupted oil shipments.

Concern soon faded over the fluctuating sea war despite periodic Iranian threats to cut the vital Strait of Hormuz through which nearly one-third of the West's oil supplies pass.

Western and Arab governments appeared to have few illusions of success as they appealed again for an end to the fighting this week. Iran and Iraq, which went to war

in September 1980, still seemed intent on calling a halt only on their own terms.

Analysts said an end to the war would require either the downfall of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, which Iran demands, or a big change in Tehran such as the death of 82-year-old Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Governments outside the region hope to persuade the two enemies at least to restrict themselves to military targets.

The United Nations Security Council and European Community foreign ministers have called for negotiations and a halt to attacks on civilian targets. But air strikes have continued.

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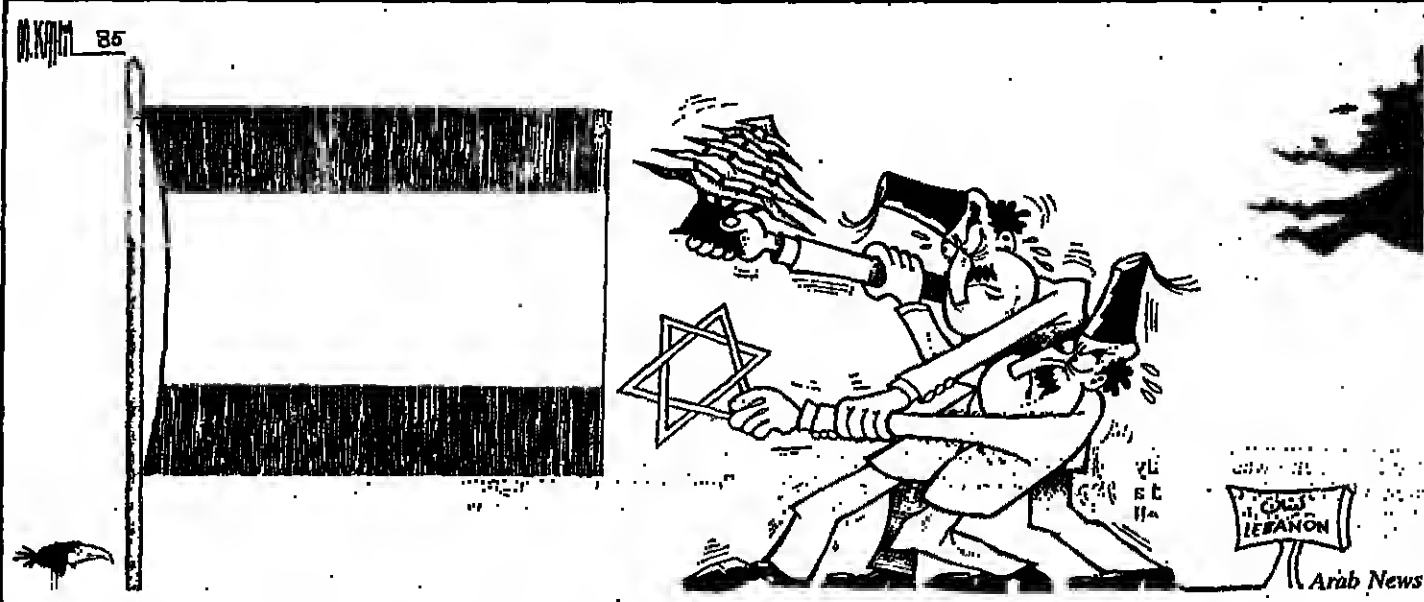
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Frustrations breed violence in Egypt

By Hamza Hendawi
Reuter

CAIRO — Egyptians, traditionally among the most law-abiding of peoples, are asking worried questions about their society following a rare outbreak of soccer hooliganism and a highly-publicised rape trial.

The Football Federation this week fined three top clubs 2,000 pounds (\$2,400) each and switched their next two home games to other grounds to punish bad behaviour by fans.

Soccer violence coincided with the trial of six youths for raping an 18-year-old girl in Cairo's Maadi suburb. Five of them sentenced to death, but may appeal against last week's verdict.

"The country is in a criminal mood," said sociologist Wahid Abdull-Maguid, who is with a research centre run by the Al-Ahram newspaper group.

He and others cited drug abuse and frustration over living conditions, particularly in overcrowded Cairo with up to 14 million inhabitants.

Officials say the press exaggerates. Interior Minister Ahmad Rushdi says there were only 14 rapes in 1984.

Egypt's football hooligans scarcely match West European standards of bad behaviour.

But a police lieutenant-general was punched in the eye by a player in Port Said.

And in another rumour in the Nile Delta town of Mansoura a brickbat hurled from the stands struck the referee on the head.

Newspapers say that, although there may only have been 14 rapes last year, there have been at least

six so far in 1985.

The Interior Minister Rushdi said rapes were fewer since the 1982 introduction of the penalty of death on the gallows for the offence.

He told Al-Ahram that too much talk about the Madi case "did more harm than good."

Mara'ai Madkour, a mass-media lecturer at Cairo's Al-Azhar University, said the press reported "actual crimes, not fictitious ones". He thought violence was on the increase.

Saad Al-Din Ibrahim, a sociology professor at the American University here, said violence resulted from "a mood of frustration. It has gradually been brewing, but it reached an unprecedented level during the past two months."

"People are losing faith in a long-promised breakthrough in

their economic life," Prof. Ibrahim told Reuters.

Egypt's population is 48 million now, rising by more than a million a year. Pressure on housing is among causes of frustration among young people unable to start a family.

Mustapha Amin, a leading columnist whose specialises on social trends in Egypt, blames violence on drugs and lack of what he called a popular political debate on Egypt's future.

He said, however, that "the United States is a prosperous country, and in some states there you get more people raped than here."

Sociologists say a rising number of angry young people find consolation in their Islamic faith.

Calls for Shari'a (Islamic law) were voiced in student demonstrations last November.

Wide Cyprus gap separates NATO partners

By Bruce Clark
Reuter

ATHENS — Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal has made a strong appeal for talks with Greece, but any prospect of an improvement in ties appears blocked by the wide gap between the two NATO partners over Cyprus.

In Ankara last week, Mr. Ozal told an invited group of Athens-based journalists he was ready for comprehensive negotiations with the Greek government, anywhere and at any level, about the air, sea and seabed issues that divide the two neighbours.

A Greek spokesman replied that the presence of Turkish troops in Cyprus was an "insurmountable obstacle" to a dialogue. He added that before any talks, Turkey must recognise what Greece sees as the legal status quo in the Aegean.

Expectations of an easing in Greek-Turkish tension, which badly disrupts NATO's southern flank, rose late last year when British and U.S. pressure, made concessions to the Greek-Cypriot government in talks about reunifying the island, diplomats say.

But a meeting between Cyprus President Spyros Kyprianou, a Greek-Cypriot, and Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş at the United Nations in January failed completely to yield agreement on the setting up of a federal arrangement.

Cyprus was effectively partitioned in 1974 after Turkish troops overran the northern 37 per cent of the island following a short-lived, right-wing coup d'état in Nicosia backed by the then military government in Athens.

In a move recognised only by Turkey, Mr. Denktaş declared northern Cyprus an independent state in November 1983.

Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu, who in his writings has made clear his strong personal feelings about the Cyprus issue, suspended a tentative dialogue with Ankara on economic questions in protest at the independence move.

Turkish officials interviewed during a recent trip to Ankara saw little prospect of another Kyprianou-Denktaş meeting in the near future, and outlined positions on Cyprus that were sharply different from Greek and Greek-Cypriot views.

The gap in views over fundamental aspects of the Cyprus issue was so wide as to suggest that even if the January talks had succeeded in their aim of agreeing on the constitutional structure of a federal state, much ground would have needed covering before the two communities could reunite.

Among these aspects are: — Freedom of movement, property and settlement throughout a federal Cyprus. This has long been a basic Greek-Cypriot aspiration but Turkish officials said they did not foresee access by Greek-Cypriots to the Turkish zone of a federal Cyprus or vice-versa.

Guarantees of the integrity of a federal Cyprus. Turkey envisages a continuation of the existing arrangement under which itself, Greece and Britain are guarantor powers. Greek-Cypriots want wider international guarantees, possibly from the U.N. Security Council.

The presence of Turkish troops. Turkey foresees a substantial number of its troops remaining on the island after the creation of a federal state. Greek-Cypriots ideally want all 17,000 Turkish troops on the island to leave before the establishment of a federation.

On the last issue, diplomats believe the Greek side might settle for a limited Turkish military presence if it were not directly under Ankara's control — perhaps under U.N. auspices. But Turkey seems unlikely to accept this.

Mr. Ozal criticised as "putting the cart before the horse" Greece's policy of insisting on a Cyprus settlement before discussing bilateral issues with Turkey.

"Can you expect the Turkish and Greek national communities in Cyprus to trust each other while the leaders of the two motherlands cannot shake hands?", he asked.

But Greek officials have several times said they would regard starting a bilateral dialogue with Turkey as a betrayal of the Greek-Cypriots, in particular of the 200,000 who fled their homes during the Turkish invasion.

Greece now boycotts NATO exercises, saying the alliance has refused to give back the full operational control of the Aegean to the man in charge of what he calls the "drive to the north."

To the concern of some of their colleagues Mr. Athalathmudali and his rivals have been orchestrating a "more Sinhalese than thou" campaign which has only

Hopes fade for Sri Lanka compromise

An island often described as a tourist paradise, Sri Lanka has suffered increasing bouts of violence as tension has escalated between the country's Tamil minority and Sinhalese majority. It has now reached the point where civil war is no longer unthinkable. Mervyn de Silva in Colombo and Alain Cass in London report.

SRI LANKA is going through the roughest period in its history since independence in 1948. The rivalry between Sri Lanka's minority Tamil population and the majority Sinhalese has escalated to a point where civil war is no longer unthinkable.

All-party talks, which produced a draft solution to Tamil demands for greater devolution, have collapsed and, with them, the immediate hope of a political solution.

In the barren northern and eastern provinces of the island, militant Tamil groups have stepped up their campaign of violence against an ill-equipped and inadequate army which, despite a massive increase in defence spending, finds itself under extreme pressure in a hostile environment.

Racial prejudice and fear are slowly becoming the factors in a dangerously unpredictable situation. Increasingly vocal calls by Sri Lanka's Tamils — who comprise 12.6 per cent of the 15 million population — for a separate, independent state in the north and east are provoking a hard-line backlash by the predominantly Buddhist Sinhalese majority.

The Sinhalese population, led by an increasingly political clergy and hawks within the Cabinet, see in these calls for "Tamil Eelam" the revival of the historic threat to its very survival from the ancient enemy — the Tamils of the north and their 50 million brethren 25 miles across the water in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu.

Since the violent outbursts of the summer of 1983, which claimed more than 400 lives, more than 50,000 Tamil refugees have fled to Tamil Nadu, some of them swelling the ranks of the five guerrilla groups that are based and trained in southern India.

Caught in the middle of this apparently intractable problem is Mr. Juvius Jayawardene, Sri Lanka's 78-year-old president. Having failed to pull off a political compromise last year, he appears to be losing the initiative to those in his Cabinet who favour the "Ulster solution" — no compromise with the Tamils, an escalation of the military campaign against the guerrillas and a programme of resettlement of Sinhalese families in the Tamil heartlands.

This sense of drift is reinforced by the impression that Mr. Jayawardene is beginning, as one observer put it, to show "signs of physical and mental fatigue."

Mr. Jayawardene came to power in 1977. He has only three more years to serve in what will be his last term as president and the present crisis has become closely linked with the question of who succeeds him.

Among his would-be successors is Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali, the national security minister, and the man in charge of what he calls the "drive to the north."

To the concern of some of their colleagues Mr. Athulathmudali and his rivals have been orchestrating a "more Sinhalese than thou" campaign which has only

served to batten attitudes on both sides.

The early optimism that followed the accession to power in New Delhi of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, who seemed to take a constructive view towards the problem, has now been dissipated and the message now is that India will only mediate again if Colombo is willing to compromise with the Tamils.

The deadlock has so far had no visible effect on Sri Lanka's lifeline — its aid donors. Mr. Ronnie de Mel, the country's finance minister, still hopes for a slight increase in last year's figure of \$580 million at the June Aid Consortium meeting in Paris. But, even senior Sri Lankan officials admit that the political deadlock and the spreading violence are making donor nations nervous.

"Nobody is withholding funds yet," said one official, "but they are beginning to fumble in their pockets."

Propped up by high tea prices Sri Lanka was able to record an overall balance of payments surplus in 1984 of SDR290 million (\$276 million), the best for several years. Mr. De Mel expects a surplus of SDR250 million this year, if present tea prices hold. The country's international reserves amount to five months' imports and the economy is still growing.

But the rising defence budget (\$196 million in 1985 or seven times the 1977 figure) may yet wipe out advantages before the year is out. Added to which, tourism, a major foreign exchange earner, is down by at least 40 per cent, inward investment has slowed considerably and inflation is beginning to hurt a broad section of the population.

On the tea plantations — the vital core of the Sri Lankan economy — the Indian Tamils, who came to the island much later than their northern brethren and who have, so far, stayed out of the dispute, are becoming restive.

Mr. Jayawardene is now being pressed by many of Sri Lanka's supporters to backpedal the military option and renew the search for a political solution.

Washington, a staunch supporter of Mr. Jayawardene's pro-Western, free-enterprise administration, has now told his government that it wants to see a political settlement first before it commits itself to a programme of long-term economic and military aid to this strategically-placed island.

The U.S. is urging President Jayawardene to effect a reconciliation with the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), the Tamils' political party. But this will prove difficult, even if the mainstream TULF leadership would like to strike a compromise.

With the collapse of last year's conference, the two positions hardened. The TULF leaders left for India where they continue to be given access to Indian leaders, a gesture which further infuriates the Sinhalese.

— Financial Times news feature.

Cheers on Channel 6 this week

By John Boteler

FIRST things first. There's a distinctly moral tale tonight at 8.30 on Channel 6: don't accept invitations from strange and beautiful women to take them home. If you do, you are liable to find yourself in the middle of a murder. This anyway is what happens to the hero in "Orson Welles' Great Mysteries". I suspect that the denouement will not be as simple as it will appear at first. At 9.00 there is "Varieties" where we suffer an assault of a different nature: audio-visual, being subjected to weird and wonderful costumes and wailing voices. The feature film at 10.15 offers the real thing, though: "Battered" is a shocking, topical social drama which deals, compassionately, with the grim reality of wife-beating. There are, according to recent statistics, more than six million physically abused wives in the world. This film deals with the problems of a man changing, under pressure, from Mr. Nice Guy to Mr. Brute. It stars Dennis Weaver, (remember him as the genial Texan detective "McCloud", who used to gallop up and down Fifth Avenue on his stallion?) and Sally Struthers, as Donald and Janis Halston who, with their two children, live a comfortable middle-class life. Donald's job with an insurance company is threatened when a young agent lands the position that Donald wanted. Frustrated in his career, Donald goes out on a drinking spree and picks up a woman. (See, I told you it was something to avoid). He takes out his guilt on Janis when he discovers that she has slightly damaged the family's expensive new car. The result is a shameful fight, leaving a battered wife and frightened children. The film poignantly plays out its drama as it might (and all too frequently does) happen to real-life, with sensitive performances from Struthers as the brutalised wife who finally finds the courage to escape the fear, rage and pain of her life, and Weaver, the husband whose deep love for his children is punctuated by uncontrolled outbursts of temper. And for those who love their villains, Larry Hagman, old J.R. himself, stars as "Mort". So you think that's pretty quiet start to the week's viewing. You haven't heard the half of it. Tomorrow, (Sunday), has "Don't Wake Up" at 8.30.

Now I personally think that a spot or two of GBH practised by

ies has proved riveting, but I don't know how much more my battered sensibilities could have taken. The ultimate hero? For my money, it was that lone member of the Nevada gaming control board who voted against giving Frank Sinatra a gambling licence. I wonder where he is now? The fishes probably know. But what has all this got to do with this week's entertainment? Well, come 10.00 tomorrow, you just may be wishing fondly for the return of the mob.

At 9.10 tomorrow there is "The Cancer Confrontation". It opens with three surrealist blobs on the screen, and a narrator intoning: "This is cancer. This is cancer. This is cancer." After that it gets a bit depressing. To be fair, though, I'm letting my ghoulish nature get the better of me. The programme studies new treatments and how one of the biggest problems with the disease is its taboo nature. But for me, it'll be time for a good book and a packet of twenty.

Don't think though that Monday is going to let you off lightly. (Just when you thought it was safe to turn on your TV set again...) A brief spot of light relief at 8.30 with "Duty Free", where Amy finally sees the evidence of David and Linda's affair. Robert attempts to warn David off, but it is Amy who decides to act on her own, with disastrous results for all concerned. Then at 9.10, "Sorell and Son" puts a dampener on any burgeoning party spirit. While Kit accidentally cuts himself in the operating theatre, contracting gangrene and facing amputation, his father Stephen feels none too well and goes for a check-up. "I'll give you one guess what the diagnosis is. As you may guess, this will be the last episode. Then at 10.10 there's "Chicago Story". Which is? Would you believe "Crime Inc.", a la Hollywood? The story you know and love, in glorious, technicolour. But don't expect anyone resembling lean, lantern-jawed Eliot Ness of the "Untouchables". (Remember? "I'm just going out for an hour to clean up the west-side, dear, I'll be home for supper"). No. These days they all look like Robert de Niro.

Tuesday, and "Star of the Family" at 8.30. Now, before I say anything else I should just mention that last week I was presiding over a speech that was not only well written, but even had a few jokes in it. However, lightning rarely strikes

twice, and this week looks like a return to the usual abysmal standards, as Jennie gets her big chance up on the stage. Will Daddy's little girl be a success? I don't really care, but I live in hope: this is the last episode of the series; perhaps someone has wired up the microphone the wrong way round, and sweet Jennie will disappear in a flash of blue smoke. Now that I'd laugh at. At 9.10 its doom-watch time again, with episode three of "Concealed Enemies". This programme is rather spooky. As seemingly-upright Alger Hiss determinedly puts his head further and further into the noose, ("You've found some documents that say I was a Russian spy from the cradle? Give them to the prosecutor"), we are introduced to a cast of characters who are bizarre in the extreme. Take Julian Wadleigh, for instance, who stepped forward to admit to being the man who passed on State department documents. He looks like the first cousin to an alligator and a spiny-tailed lizard. But what is fascinating is the perspective we get on the morality of the time. Mr. Hiss could have had, but he is rejected because of his record of convictions on obscenity charges. The books he published and was prosecuted for were "Lady Chatterley's Lover", "Ulysses" and Henry Miller. English students study those at university now.

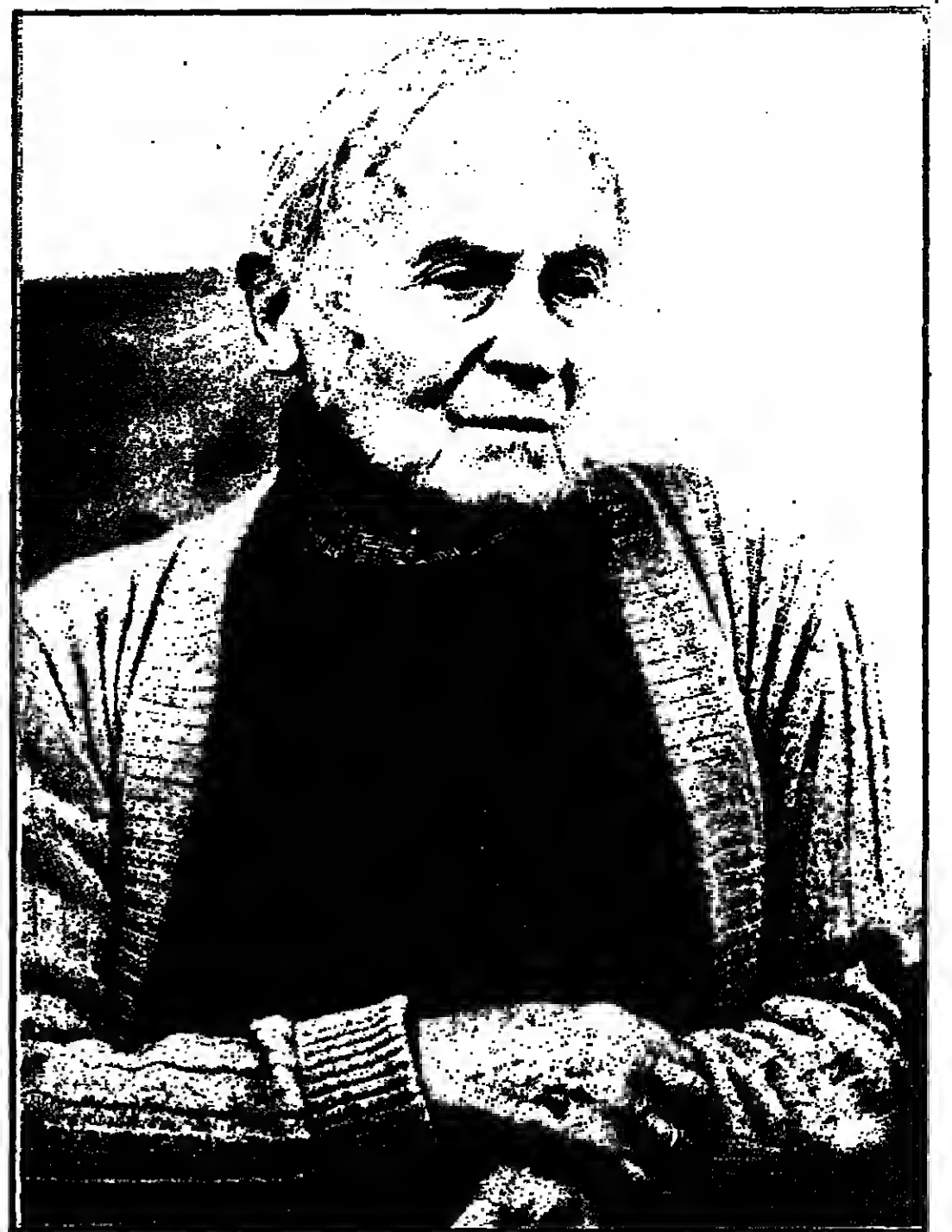
There are also the chilling aspects of this sordid business: Hiss being subjected to a trial by radio; Nixon refusing to drop the case because he needs it to stop President Truman from abolishing the House Committee on Communist Conspiracies. What a pity that odious Mr. Chambers, (who, in true Hallo-ween spirit, kept the incriminating microfilms in a pumpkin), proved to be so hopeless at committing suicide. We could have done without his wheezing, oily presence.

This week: "Investigation". At 10.15 we have... ah, here we come to a slight problem. It should be another episode of "Hardcastle and McCormack", but this is, at the time of writing, not definite. We are, after all, just one week away from the new programme cycle on Channel 6, (of which, more next week!), and, as should be obvious by now, several series are running, or have run, out. But before you get all red-faced, buffy, and indignant, look at it this way. Next week on Channel 6 will contain a few surprise packages,

which not even your campaigning columnist is privy to.

"Up the Elephant and Round the Castle" is definitely on at 8.30 on Wednesday though, with "A Bird in the Hand is Worth Two in Shepherd's Bush". (For those of you who are a bit confused by all this, The Elephant and Castle and Shepherd's Bush are areas of London). Jim is treated to a Bertie Allnut lecture on good neighbourliness - the last person qualified to speak on that subject. However Jim gets drawn into the local "Good Neighbour Week" competition, as does everyone in Railway Terrace. All Jim seems to get for his efforts is the Bird! (Or, in other words, trouble) Don't forget "Moonfest", Channel 3.6.10. Having secured the diamond, John and Elzevir travel to Holland where they plan to sell it. When it is stolen from them by an unscrupulous dealer they break into his house in a desperate attempt to get it back, and walk straight into the arms of the law!

"Miro - Theatre of Dreams" promises an oasis of calm in the turbulent maelstrom of this week's programmes on Wednesday at 9.10. In this film portrait, the great Spanish artist Joan Miro talks about his life, and is also seen working in collaboration with the Catalan Theatre group, "The Claca". Ignored officially for four decades by the Franco regime the old man was delighted when, towards the end of his life, Spain's new democratic government began to make amends. He once said: "I had great confidence in the creative force of Spain. A force which distinguishes us both in history and in art". He is one of the great masters of 20th century art. Friend of Picasso, Max Ernst, Masson, he was, apart from Dali, the last of that great generation of painters who worked in Paris in the 1920s, and who have left their mark on the art of this century. Xavier de Salas, Miro's Spanish art custodian, said of his work: "Miro is a very curious person. He has this childish way of seeing things - this immaturity and exhilaration of discovering things which all children have. What he has tried to show in his work is his interpretation and his dreams of the world around. He has done so in flashes of colour in unshaped forms, floating on a flat background. He has developed his own very dry and drole style which has little to do with his two contemporaries,



"Miro - Theatre of Dreams" - Wednesday, 9.10

Dali and Picasso." Miro's own comments are a shade drier: "After the first shock of suggestion has cooled", he once said, "I work coldly, like an artisan, guided strictly by rules of composition".

The 10.15 slot on Wednesday is a surprise package, as is the 8.30 comedy programme on Thursday. (Does this mean we have seen the last of "Hotel" and "Three's Company"? Alas and alack, it would appear so.) But there is a feature film on Thursday, at 9.10, "An Affair to Remember", starring Carry Grant, Deborah Kerr, and Richard Denning. According

to the blurb, Leo McCarey's remake of his own "Love Affair" attempts to penetrate the hysterical core of his material in order to find its emotional fundamentals. (Gosh!) There's plenty of emotion and tragedy before Grant and Kerr come together. Grant's act is more introverted and subjective than Charles Boyer's was with Irene Dunne in the 1939 version. I never saw that one either. Friday at 8.30 is time to say farewell once again, to "Open All Hours". Granville is undergoing an identity crisis and discards his apron for a more 'hip' image - much to the delight of the lady

customers, but to his uncle's horror. Meanwhile, Arkwright decides to lash out on a more sinister campaign in the hope of improving business. "Murder She Wrote" is at 9.10, while at 10.15 the week ends as it began, full of doom and despondency. "The Golden Honeymoon", (10.15), is another to be unfortunately - all too infrequent series of a "American Short Stories". If it's half as good as Bernice Bobs Her Hair, which was shown a few months ago, then we are in for a treat. You know, I rather think I'm going to enjoy this week on Channel 6. Cheers!!

Iraqis raid Iranian towns

(Continued from page 1)

An estimated 300,000 Iranian regulars and volunteers massed for a long-expected "grand offensive" into southern Iraq with the avowed objective of isolating the Basra region from the rest of Iraq. In the week-long offensive into Huwaizah, he said, the invaders crossed 80 kilometres into Iraqi territory "through barbed wire and minefields" from the town of Ayat to Qurna.

In Al Uzzayr, Iraq on Friday, amid the din of helicopters and heavy artillery fire, Major-General Sultan Hashem Ahmad, commander of Iraqi military operations east of the Tigris River, told reporters how his troops trapped and routed the Iranian forces after fierce trench warfare.

At a briefing for reporters, as fighting raged not far from Al Uzzayr, General Ahmad said Iraq had been well prepared for the March 11 offensive, in which he estimated 53,000 Iranian troops had swarmed into the Huwaizah marshes.

It was a deliberate trap, he said, adding that Iraq's strategy had been to clear out the marshes and draw the Iranians onto dry land near the Tigris, where thousands of Iraqi troops and armour were waiting in ambush.

Reporters gave a tour Thursday of the 40-kilometre long strip of land where most of the battle for the marshes occurred witnessed intense artillery battles.

Gen. Ahmad said Iraq had planned to trap the invasion forces into a strip of land between Al Uzzayr and Al Qurna, 25 kilometres to the south, where Iraqi commanders had designated a "killing zone".

Reporters who visited the area last Monday said the battlefield was littered with hundreds of Iranian corpses, but most bodies had been buried by bulldozers by the time reporters reached the area Thursday.

Gen. Ahmad said Iraq's victory was a turning point in the 54-month-old war because it was the second time Iran had been defeated in a marshland offensive.

In February 1984, Iranian troops invaded another section of the Huwaizah marshes, occupying part of the so-called Majnoon islands, a network of man-made roads built to exploit rich oil fields in the area.

Gen. Ahmad said Iran now occupied less than 40 per cent of the islands and that Iraq was not likely to attempt a similar attack against the Iranians because last week had proved "there are too many obstacles."

"As you can see, the Iranians tried twice and failed," he said.

In Kuwait, Defence Minister Sheikh Salem Sabah was quoted as saying that Kuwait was prepared to face any spillovers from the 54-month-old Iran-Iraq war.

"We do not exclude the likelihood of the war creeping to Kuwait's border," Sheikh Salem told the Kuwaiti newspaper Al

Watan in an interview appearing Saturday.

Kuwait is the Arab Gulf country closest to the Gulf war front. Sheikh Salem told the paper that Kuwait has fortified its Babiyani Island "as a precaution against any threat" emanating from the war.

3 French kidnapped

(Continued from page 1)

Newspapers 100 metres from the embassy compound on his way to work on foot.

The owner of the shop said two young men with pistols bundled Mr. Fontaine out of the shop and into a blue BMW car. The abduction took less than a minute.

"I was just giving Mr. Fontaine his change when I felt a pistol in my back, and I was shoved into the back of the shop," the shopkeeper said.

"Two men with pistols pushed Mr. Fontaine into a car waiting outside with another man and left. I took less than a minute, just a few seconds," Mr. Fontaine said nothing," he added.

After last week's abductions of two Britons and an American journalist, a caller claiming to speak for "Islamic Jihad" said it was holding them in a campaign to rid Beirut of "foreign spies."

Talks with joint team should lead to negotiations

(Continued from page 1)

and knowledgeable about their interests who are not PLO members."

Mr. Shultz said the U.S. government was working with all parties "to see if there is some way we can find that gets to those direct negotiations that we seek." He said it would be difficult and delicate to work out.

He criticised a congressional subcommittee's action Wednesday in approving \$122 million in U.S. aid for Jordan next year only if the Kingdom agreed to direct negotiations with Israel.

He said such actions were counter-productive, particularly now when Jordan was trying to restart peace talks.

In response to questions, Mr. Shultz endorsed as significant the Feb. 11 agreement between Jordan and the PLO.

"I think there are a number of developments that, added together, show that there is some movement," Mr. Shultz said. "I believe that in the end what is necessary is for the key parties involved, and particularly King Hussein with a Palestinian delegation, to sit down in direct negotiations with Israel."

Mr. Masri also criticised as unwise and harmful the congressional panel's vote to the sale of advanced weapons to Jordan to its willingness to negotiate with Israel.

Mr. Masri made the comment to reporters after briefing Mr. Shultz on Wednesday.

The House of Representatives subcommittee vote had also said none of the proposed U.S. aid could be used for advanced U.S. weapons until Jordan agreed to direct negotiations with Israel.

The Reagan administration opposed the amendment.

"I am sorry it reached that stage," Mr. Masri said. "That is very harmful, I think. I don't think it is wise to restrict sales of sophisticated weapons to Jordan at this time."

Commenting on a report Wednesday that Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres was dropping his opposition to U.S. talks with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, Mr. Masri said: "That's wise on his side to say that."

Mr. Masri reaffirmed that the Palestinian side of the delegation would consist of PLO representatives when he said, "we have a clear agreement with the PLO and we are talking about a joint delegation."

In Cairo, Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid said Thursday Mr. Mubarak will meet King Hussein again soon to pursue their Middle East peace initiative.

In an interview with the daily newspaper Al-Ahram, Mr. Abdul Meguid said Egypt would have more international contacts over the next two months, both with Arab and other countries, in the search for a solution to the conflict.

Clashes erupt near Beirut

(Continued from page 1)

Falangist President Elie Karameh said the party sought a compromise and did not recognise a rebel takeover of the "Lebanese Forces" militia.

The Falangist newspaper Al-Ahram charged the rebels with adventurism that threatened the Christian community with "destructive war and not salvation."

Mr. Chamoun's father, ex-President Camille Chamoun who heads the NLP, said the party refused to recognise the rebel command of the "Lebanese Forces" headed by Dr. Geagea.

The NLP still recognised Mr. Gemayel's nephew, Fuad Abu Nader, as commander and stood by Mr. Gemayel and leaders of the Falangist Party, Mr. Chamoun told a Beirut newspaper.

Dr. Geagea, who last week declared independence from the Falangists and took over Maronite regions, was named chief of staff and effective head of the "Lebanese Forces" Thursday.

Israelis continue assaults

(Continued from page 1)

and shell one minute later as he tried to help the CBS men.

Cars and trucks packed with villagers, most carrying little more than a few clothes in plastic bags, streamed towards Sidon and Beirut following the Israeli raids.

"Everyone who had a vehicle or could find a ride left has left their village," a 45-year-old former travel agent from the village of Anqoun said. "My wife and eight children and I will sleep in our car. We have no place to go."

"Be careful - the Israelis shot at an old man standing in the street... they will shoot at anything," his son cautioned.

Residents of Hamein Al Fauqa and Arab Tarbiyah said about 15 tanks and three bulldozers entered their villages just after dawn, causing panic.

"They just left this area a month ago and now they are coming back, while their government promises to leave Lebanon in two months," a Lebanese relief worker said. "We can't understand the Israelis, they are just terrorists," he added.

The sources added that the journalists were hit after a tank fired at "armed men who had taken firing positions."

Jacquemin said the only people with the journalists were unarmed villagers, including women and children, watching them interview the UPTIN crew whose car was earlier destroyed by Israeli automatic fire.

Recounting the deaths of the journalists, Jacquemin said: "It was incredible. They (the Israeli tank crew) saw me and I have long blonde hair and could not have been Lebanese."

"They saw we were journalists. We were filming and interviewing, and they shot at us deliberately."

She said the tank fired as the CBS crew were getting into their car. "The cameraman took the shell between his legs and he exploded," Jacquemin said.

The CBS soundman also died and their driver later had his legs amputated, Jacquemin said her driver was also wounded by a sec-

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Liverpool, Juventus in line for final showdown

GENEVA (R) — The mouth-watering prospect of a European Cup soccer final between English holders Liverpool and Italian champions Juventus remained intact Friday after the draw for next month's semi-final ties.

Liverpool, who cruised into the last four of European soccer's premier competition with a decisive 5-2 aggregate win over Austria Vienna in the quarter-finals, were drawn to play Greek champions Panathinaikos of Athens while Juventus will meet Bordeaux of France.

Both Liverpool and Juventus will be at home in the first legs of their ties due to be played on April 10 and both should be capable of building formidable leads to defend for the reverse legs on April 24.

Of the two, four times winners Liverpool appear to have the easier task against Panathinaikos, whose only previous appearance in a final was in 1971 when they

lost to Ajax of Amsterdam in London. Juventus face a far more formidable challenge from Bordeaux, who proved their resilience by emerging victorious from a harrowing quarter-final second leg tie in the Soviet Union this week. The final will be held in Brussels on May 29.

In the Cup Winners' Cup, the draw was less kind to the favourites Everton and Bayern Munich who have been paired to meet in West Germany in the first leg.

Initially, Everton were drawn at home for the first leg, but once their city rivals Liverpool were also drawn at home on the same night, the tie was reversed.

With both teams leading their

respective first divisions and producing consistently authoritative soccer, the Anglo-German semi-final promises a close-fought and exhausting contest.

The winners will meet either Rapid Vienna or Dynamo Moscow in the final in Rotterdam on May 15, with Vienna the more likely victors if they can sustain the goalscoring form that saw them crush Dynamo Dresden 5-0 on Wednesday for a 5-3 aggregate quarter-final triumph.

Two intriguing semifinals, one an all-Latin affair and the other a clash of East European rivals, are in store in the UEFA Cup competition.

Hot favourites Inter Milan of Italy, inspired by West German international captain Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, were drawn at home first against Real Madrid, who removed the holders Tottenham, while Videoton of Hungary were paired with Zeltznicar Sarajevo of Yugoslavia.

Suspended Greek hurdler denies drug taking

ATHENS (R) — Elizabeth Pantazi, the Greek hurdler suspended after a positive dope test, said Friday she could prove she had not taken a performance-enhancing drug.

Pantazi, the holder of several national records, said she could show scientifically that she had not taken nadrolone, as claimed by a testing laboratory in Cologne, West Germany.

The Cologne laboratory cleared 13 other Greek athletes, who were also suspended on the eve of the European indoor athletics championships in Athens earlier this month on suspicion of doping.

The 14 competitors — six of whom were scheduled to take part in the indoor championships — were suspended after an Athens laboratory found traces in their urine suggesting they might have taken drugs.

The 13 cleared athletes said they had always been confident the Cologne tests would prove negative.

Triple jumper Dimitrios Mihas, who had said he would allow people to spit on him in Athens' Cen-

tral Square if the test had been positive, told Reuters: "It was the result I expected. I have never taken drugs and I never intend to take them."

He said he and his fellow athletes had considered legal action, but he thought it unlikely, as long as the Track and Field Association (SEGAS) kept to its promise of fully restoring their reputations.

"The harm has been done, and there is not much we can do about it after the event," Mihas said.

He said he agreed with doping-testing but he still felt aggrieved at missing out on the indoor championships.

Four other athletes — George Perakis, Panayotis Fotiou, Arci Strakatos and Mihalis Vayenas — said in a statement: "We are pleased the truth has come out, and we are pleased the sports authorities kept their word and arranged an objective test... we hope those who make mistakes over sports policy will now realise their incompetence."

The youth and sports ministry said SEGAS had been right to withdraw the athletes.

Zarqa to get new sports city

AMMAN (Petra) — Part of the Ministry of Youth's five year development plan for 1985-1990 is the establishment of a new sports city in Zarqa district according to Minister of Youth Hani Khasawneh.

Dr. Khasawneh, who was speaking Thursday during the inauguration of Al-Abbasiyyeh Sports Club in Zarqa went on to say that sport clubs and associations should depend on themselves and not on the government and that citizens and participants in sports clubs should support their clubs and promote the sport facilities offered at each of these clubs.

Dr. Khasawneh also discussed with senior government officials and representatives of Zarqa district issues pertaining to the development of sport facilities and activities in Zarqa.

India stuns Pakistan in limited overs cricket

SHARJAH (R) — India set off towards a fourth consecutive triumph in international limited overs cricket tournaments with a stunning 38-run win over Pakistan Friday.

India's success came in the first round of a four-nation 50-over competition when they were skittled for 125 in 42.4 overs but hit back by routing Pakistan for 87 in 32.5 overs.

India, who won the official World Cup in 1983, The Asia Cup in 1984 and the World Championship of cricket in Australia recently, are through to the final against England or Australia, who meet on Sunday. The final is on March 29.

Yet India scarcely made an encouraging start as they were destroyed by Pakistan's fast bowling all-rounder Imran Khan, who captured six for 14 and was named man of the match.

Imran, who was prevented by a shin injury from bowling in international cricket for two years before the World Championship,

started by sending back five of the top six batsmen as India slumped to 34 for five.

Mohammad Azharuddin, India's recent batting discovery, and captain Kapil Dev salvaged some pride with a sixth wicket stand of 46 before off spinner Tauseef Ahmed bowled Kapil for 30.

Azharuddin, top scorer with 47, was also bowled by Tauseef, while the pacemen polished off the tail. Pakistan launched their reply fairly solidly but started to crumble against leg spinner Laxman Sivaramakrishnan and left arm spinner Ravi Shastri.

Ashraf Ali, Imran and captain Javed Miandad fell within minutes of each other, leaving Pakistan reeling on 41 for five.

A sixth-wicket stand of 33 by Rameez Raja and Saleem Malik gave Pakistan hope, but the return of Kapil Dev, who coded with three for 17, and fine slip catching by ex-captain Sunil Gavaskar sealed Pakistan's fate.

Norwich hopes for League Cup win

LONDON (R) — Two former internationals and distinguished English first division veterans, Mike Channon and Asa Hartford, will attempt to add a glorious final chapter to their careers when they play for Norwich against Sunderland in the English League Cup final on Sunday.

Channon, 36, who won 46 England caps during the peak years of an exciting goalscorer career with Southampton and Manchester City, and 34-year-old Hartford, who was captain for many of his 50 appearances with Scotland, will add a touch of sentiment to the first showpiece final of the English season here at Wembley stadium.

At Sunderland, who like Norwich belong to the cluster of "unashamedly" provincial clubs in the lower reaches of the first division, can be relied on to show no special sympathy to their opponents as they seek the trophy held by Liverpool for the last four years.

The team from the depressed industrial north-east of England have a passionate following and long traditions, but currently languish in the relegation zone while Norwich occupy a relatively comfortable position in mid-table.

Indeed, manager Len Ashurst, a former Sunderland player, has already given an insight into their attitude by declaring the team will enjoy a full-scale ticker-tape parade if they win... but try to creep home unnoticed if they lose.

"I don't think it is right to bang the drum if we are defeated," said Ashurst. "If that happens, then it means we won't have done a professional job. We are going to Wembley to win."

While Sunderland take a somewhat dour and hard-headed approach to their first League Cup final, Norwich will arrive full of manager Ken Brown's typical adventure.

Dubbed the "canaries" because of their bright green and yellow strip, Norwich have a team that bleeds the promise of such young England contenders as goalkeeper Chris Woods and defender Dave Watson with the experience of striker Channon and midfielder Hartford.

They also boast a forward-line with two wingers, the youthful Mark Barham and Louie Donohue, who are capable of upsetting the toughest defences and providing a stream of chances for Channon and his versatile strike

partner John Deehan.

But Sunderland have proved — not least in their controversial semifinal win over Chelsea in a match marred by crowd violence — that they have exceptional defensive qualities and, in winger Clive Walker, a dangerous and unpredictable forward.

In midfield, where the athletic Gary Bennett combines with the elegant Nick Pickering and combative Steve Berry, Sunderland can also be a tough opponent. The battle for possession and control between Bennett and Norwich's tigerish Peter Mendham may prove the key conflict of the match.

As with all cup finals, however, experience may prove the most telling commodity on the day and ensure that Norwich's hard-working, attacking team can return from their third Wembley League Cup final with a first victory.

Certainly, nothing would give centrals more pleasure than to see horse-racing fanatic Channon delivering one of his familiar snarling salutes on scoring a decisive goal as a grand finale to his colourful career.

Mota, Lopes set to make history

LISBON (R) — Portugal's Carlos Lopes and Rosa Mota join forces on Sunday in a bid for a unique "double".

The Olympic marathon medallist contest the World Cross-country Championships in Lisbon knowing no outdoor has ever won both the men's and women's titles in the same year.

Lopes and Mota possess the talent to end that sequence.

Los Angeles gold medallist Lopes starts firm favourite to retain the crown he won comfortably in East Rutherford, New Jersey, last year.

At 38 he is still discovering his best form and will be chasing his third cross-country success in the 12 km race — nine years after he won his first.

Lopes won the men's European Club Cup in southern Portugal last month but then lost the national title to 10,000 metres world record holder Fernando Mamede. But Mamede has a questionable championship temperament and may not be among the honours this time.

Mota, 26, the first Portuguese woman to win an Olympic athletics medal when she took bronze

last year, has never shone in cross-country championships.

Her best performance in the championships was 18th in 1981, but she has found marvellous form this year and retained her national title easily earlier this month.

With defending champion Maricica Puica of Romania absent along with Norway's five times winner Grete Waitz, Mota's main rivals are likely to be Britain's Zola Budd and another Norwegian, Ingrid Kristiansen.

Budd, seventh in the Olympic 3,000 metres final after her much-publicised collision with American favourite Mary Decker, has little experience of major cross-country events. The South African-born runner was forced out of the English national championships last month when an anti-apartheid protester threw himself in front of her.

Distressed, Budd ran off the course. In spite of her non-finish she was picked for England and her natural speed over the five kilometre distance should ensure her a medal.

Kristiansen, experienced at cross-country, is more likely to be Mota's main threat. She was fourth in New Jersey last year, holds the world best track time for 5,000 metres and beat both Mota and Budd in a 10 km road race in Oslo last May.

But Mota gained revenge when she finished ahead of Kristiansen in the Los Angeles marathon. Since then the Norwegian has turned to psychology in a bid to develop a more aggressive foot-running style.

Lopes' chief rivals are more difficult to pick but he will take comfort in the absence of two Britons — Tim Hutchings, second last year, and Olympic 10,000 metres silver medallist Mike McLoud.

Christoph Herle could provide West Germany's first-ever success. He won his fourth successive national title last month and was fifth in the Olympic 10,000 metres final.

Herle also ran the second fastest indoor 3,000 metres at the West German championships in February.

The veteran Portuguese must also watch out for a little-known African.

The Ethiopians are again likely to be strong. They won the men's title in 1982 and 1983 through Mohammad Kadir and Bekele Debele respectively and have lifted the team title every year since 1981 — a significant indication of their strength in depth.

The United States are the reigning women's team champions, having triumphed for the last two years.

Sukova, Rinaldi reach circuit tennis semifinals

NEW YORK (R) — Patience paid off for Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia and American Kathy Rinaldi Thursday night in quarter-final matches of the \$500,000 women's Circuit Championships at Madison Square Garden.

Sukova, fourth in the world rankings, altered her usual aggressive, net-rushing tactics in beating 11th-ranked Catarina Lindqvist of Sweden 6-4, 6-4 in 62 minutes.

Then Rinaldi upset Kathy Jordan 6-1, 6-3 in 82 minutes by forcing long rallies and wearing down the woman who upset second-seeded Chris Evert Lloyd on Tuesday.

Sukova will meet Rinaldi in the semi-finals on Saturday.

The remaining quarter-finals will be played Friday night. Top-seeded Martina Navratilova of the United States faces doubles partner Pam Shriver of the United States, ranked eighth, and third-seeded Hana Mandlikova of Czechoslovakia meets seventh seed American Zina Garrison.

Sukova cracked five aces against Lindqvist, but both players served shakily at times, with five service breaks recorded in each set.

Lindqvist kept Sukova pinned to the baseline with driving ground strokes and tried at times to

rush the net, but Sukova responded with perfectly placed lobs. "I tried to be aggressive but Catarina is not one of the players you can come to the net very often against because of her passing shots," Sukova said.

Sukova jumped to a 3-0 lead in the second set but Lindqvist fought back to level at 4-4.

In the ninth game, Lindqvist fought off three break points but Sukova earned a fourth on a backhand volley and, after a long rally, Sukova cracked a backhand volley that caught the top of the net and dropped over for a winner.

Lindqvist appeared to lose heart after that and Sukova won the 10th game at love to record her second match victory with no defeats against Lindqvist.

Rinaldi held service in a 13-minute first game against Jordan and proved immediately that she was ready for a long hard battle.

"I could see that she wasn't going to crack and she was going to make me work for every point," Jordan said.

Rinaldi won eight straight games to take it to 3-0 in the second set, outplaying Jordan from the baseline and waiting for opportunities to move to the net.

Jordan afterwards praised Rinaldi's level of play and said she had been unable to equal the high intensity she had felt against Lloyd.

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2- THE PRIVATE SCHOOL**
(Colour)
Performances: 12-3-7

Cinema RAGHADAN
Tel: 22198

I AM THE REPTILE-KILLER
(Arabic)
(Colour)
Performances: 12-3-5:30-8

Philadelphia

ELIMINATE

Show at 9:30/6/8:30/10:30
TEL. 3444-3449

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One sterling	1.1750/70	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3700/10	Canadian dollars
	3.2120/70	West German marks
	3.6225/75	Dutch guilders
	2.7205/55	Swiss francs
	64.55/65	Belgian francs
	9.8000/8200	French francs
	2038.0/43.0	Italian lire
	254.90/55.05	Japanese yen
	9.1900/2000	Swedish crowns
	9.2000/2100	Norwegian crowns
	11.4800/5000	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	320.25/321.25	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Equities closed lower in subdued end of account trading, dealers said. At 1500 GMT the FT 30 index was 5.2 points off at 987.9 and the FTSE 100 index at 1530 GMT was down 2.8 at 1,297.9.

Thorn EMI was 7p up at 424 after 431 on news British Telecom is placing a £100 million contract for digital exchanges with Thorn Ericsson.

Government bonds gave up opening gains after early demand petered out following the exhaustion of the 9% per cent exchequer 2001 "tap" stock, dealers said. Bonds finished narrowly mixed. Golds turned firmer while North Americans were mixed.

Foster Brothers was 18p lower at 202 after 198. On Thursday, the Ward White group let its offer for the company lapse rather than increase it after the higher offer made by Sears Holdings. Ward White was down 2p at 233 and Sears up 1p at 85 1/2.

Turner and Newall finished 6p lower at 106 after 105 after annual results that were below market expectations.

Gerrard National was up 10p at 372 after news it has decided not to proceed with its plan to set up a joint bond company with James Capel.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is certainly a day for you to get into whatever Saturday pursuits face you that require a considerable amount of running about or that are of a manual nature.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) A myriad of personal matters requires your attention so get at them early. Steer clear of a tricky individual.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Put aside other matters and clear up all those personal affairs that need your attention. Help one who is disabled.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Good day to visit good friends and be happy with them, but be sure to take care of that obligation in the evening.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) You can handle outside affairs very well during the day, but steer clear of an irate associate in the evening.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) The day is fine for making new contacts and friends, but the evening is best spent at home. Take necessary health treatments.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Fine day for making collections and paying bills that are pressing. Try to please the one you love without spending too much money.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Talks in the outside world can produce fine results today, even if others seem impatient. Follow their advice.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Ideal day to consider those tasks that you have neglected to do and to get at them enthusiastically.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Be off to amusements you like early so that you get relief from tensions. Later, handle regular chores.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Ideal day to handle family affairs and have everything working efficiently at your abode. Later, invite guests in.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You have many errands and calls to make, so get an early start on them, since you have little time during work days.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Plan just how you can have a greater abundance in the future by using more modern methods. Consult a financial expert.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be very alert to whatever is happening, so be sure to give as fine an education as possible since your progeny can accomplish a great deal in life. This child will have an unusual kind of life and is able to surmount anything.

THE Daily Crossword by James E. Hinish, Jr.

ACROSS

- 1 "L..." "East"
- 2 Toppers
- 3 Dated
- 4 Punjab prince
- 5 Small
- 6 Islamic vesp
- 7 Hackneyed
- 8 VIP's car
- 9 Singer Tamara
- 10 Broadway columnist
- 11 Pony
- 12 Fairly
- 13 Ice cream
- 14 Queen of mysteries
- 15 Scant var.
- 16 "Let us do..."
- 17 Deadly sin
- 18 Ovid's family name
- 19 Bird's wing
- 20 Cork
- 21 Beecham for one
- 22 Logie
- 23 Aristocratic
- 24 It, family
- 25 Brown color
- 26 Learning agent
- 27 Nine
- 28 Supreme Court
- 29 Sound quality
- 30 "Let us do..."
- 31 "Let us do..."
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DOWN

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World trade tensions persist, GATT says

GENEVA (R) — Strong economic recovery in the United States has boosted the volume of world trade to an all-time high, the world trade body GATT said Thursday.

But the strong dollar and the consequent large growth of the U.S. trade deficit pose a growing threat to world trade relations by adding to protectionist pressures, the secretariat of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) said in a report.

Total world trade in 1984 rose by a record nine per cent in volume, GATT said. In value, world exports rose 6.5 per cent to \$1,955 billion, close to the 1980 peak.

GATT, which groups 90 countries, said brisk expansion of world commerce had not helped reduce protectionist barriers or ease tensions over trade issues.

This was mainly because of the lopsided nature of the expansion, with a strong U.S. recovery contrasting sharply with weak growth and higher unemployment in Western Europe.

The imbalance in economic

growth rates between Western Europe and the United States was "clearly an important source of tension in the world economy," it said.

An even greater disparity in economic performance was evident among developing countries, GATT said.

EC official stresses link between trade, money issues

Meanwhile, a senior European official said in Washington Thursday that a new global round of trade negotiations should be linked to parallel actions to curb turbulent currencies and to provide relief for debt-burdened developing countries.

Wild currency movements and Third World debt have hurt global trade and "cannot be solved in trade negotiations, they require

more determined, concerted action in parallel," said Mr. Willy de Clercq, external relations commissioner of the European Community's (EC's) executive commission.

Mr. De Clercq, who was until recently chairman of the policy-making interim committee of the International Monetary Fund, is in Washington for talks with Reagan administration officials on the prospects for a new trade round.

He stressed that the United States must play a part in new monetary action because of the impact of the strong dollar and high American interest rates.

Until now, Washington has rejected calls for parallel talks on trade and monetary issues, blaming weaker European currencies on their sluggish economies compared with robust U.S. economy.

But Thursday, U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker said he was in favour of greater stability in foreign exchange markets and would examine whether there were ways to achieve it.

The twin issues are likely to

dominate ministerial talks of the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in April and the world economic summit in May.

Mr. De Clercq also told an audience of diplomats, politicians and officials that a new trade round would be useless without renewed efforts to resist and roll back protectionism.

The high dollar, he argued, has intensified protectionist sentiment in the U.S. Congress, where there was a flood of so-called "reciprocity" bills and calls for a surcharge on imports.

Such a surcharge meant "the way we would be open for retaliation" but he applauded the administration's efforts to resist pressure for import tariffs.

Mr. De Clercq also warned Japan that its trading partners were growing increasingly restless over lack of action to open up its markets to foreign competition.

Japan's partners rightly expected "a readiness by Japan to table real, rather than merely form concessions in a new round (of

trade talks)," Mr. De Clercq said. "Japan must understand and accept the responsibilities which her position in the world economy now entails," he said.

Mr. De Clercq also cautioned the United States against seeking bilateral or regional trade pacts as an answer to the \$120 billion U.S. trade deficit.

Such action would further weaken the international trading system, at a time when commitments to role back current protectionist measures were no longer being honoured, he said.

Mr. De Clercq also emphasised that the developing countries would have to be convinced that world trade talks would be balanced and give their concerns a fair hearing to persuade them to participate.

Calling for a concerted international effort to launch a new round, Mr. De Clercq said, "sterile confrontation helps nobody."

U.S. remains opposed

On the other hand, a U.S. trade official said in Paris Thursday that



Willy de Clercq, the United States government remains opposed to any move to link negotiations on world trade with bids to tackle currency problems.

Mr. Geza Feketekuty, senior advisor to U.S. trade representative Mr. William Brock, said Washington wants multilateral talks on trade trouble spots including agriculture and protectionist devices.

The administration considers that "trade and currency issues are two separate things," he told a seminar of the Paris-based Atlantic Institute for International Affairs.

White House formally backs 1986 economic aid for Israel

WASHINGTON (R) — The Reagan administration Thursday formally announced support for \$1.2 billion in regular economic aid to Israel in 1986 but said it had still not decided about extra emergency assistance for 1985.

"The administration now supports an ESF (economic support fund) authorisation for Israel for 1986 in the amount of \$1.2 billion dollars," assistant secretary of state Mr. Richard Murphy told a Senate foreign relations subcommittee.

But he said Israel's request for \$1.4 billion in additional emergency aid is still being studied and admitted the Reagan administration is divided on the issue.

The administration has pushed Israel to make economic reforms and until now withheld a recommendation on any 1985 or 1986 economic aid pending discussions with the coalition government of Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

The House of Representatives foreign affairs subcommittee yesterday approved a 1986 foreign aid bill that includes \$1.2 billion in economic aid for Israel, the same as 1985.

Mr. Murphy Thursday came under fire from pro-Israel senators for delaying a recommendation on extra emergency aid.

Senator Paul Sarbanes argued Israel's coalition government had made great progress on difficult reforms, adding: "Do you think the current programme has any chance of succeeding if it is not coupled with transitional (U.S.) assistance?"

Mr. Murphy replied: "I think some transitional assistance will be agreed to."

But he added: "The amount, the rates, the criteria by which it will be disbursed is the subject of continued discussion with the Israeli government."

Mr. Sarbanes, a Maryland Democrat, noted the committee planned to act on the 1986 foreign aid bill this week and said it would be forced to propose its own aid level.

Republican Senator Rudy Boschwitz of Minnesota, the subcommittee chairman, expressed interest in giving Egypt a larger portion of its 1986 economic aid in cash.

Meanwhile, the House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee Wednesday agreed to a proposed U.S.-Israeli free trade agreement, the first between the United States and any other country.

At the same time, Senate finance committee chairman Mr. Bob Packwood said he expects his committee will agree to the pact this week with final congressional approval by May 1.

At a Senate hearing on the proposed agreement Wednesday, the Oregon Republican said he hoped the expanded trade would help Israel lessen its dependence on U.S. economic aid.

The agreement will wipe out all tariffs on trade between the two countries by 1995. It also eases other types of trade restrictions and ends Israeli government subsidies on exports to the United States.

While 90 per cent of the \$515 million in U.S. imports from Israel now enter duty-free, the end of Israeli duties on U.S. goods will help American companies compete with Europe. Israel will soon end duties on European goods.

In 1982, Israel imported \$1.28 billion worth of U.S. goods. But American companies are concerned that they will not be able to sell to Israel once competing goods from Europe are imported by Israel duty free.

The main Israeli exports immediately affected by the trade pact are textiles and clothing, leather goods and footwear.

Once the congressional committees agree informally to the trade pact, the administration will give its final approval. Then Congress will formally adopt it.

Congress last year authorised the administration to begin similar free trade zone negotiations with other countries but no talks are currently being held.

U.S. assistant trade representative Ms. Doris Cooper told the Senate committee that discussions about bilateral trade pacts have made other countries "quite nervous."

Other countries "do not want the United States to liberalise trade on a bilateral basis," she said.

Paris reschedules Iraqi debts

PARIS (R) — France has agreed to reschedule billions of francs of Iraqi debt payments falling due this year, government sources told Reuters Thursday. The agreement, the fourth time in two years France has helped Iraq overcome financial problems stemming from its war with Iran, was signed last week but not made public, they said.

France is Iraq's second-largest arms supplier after the Soviet Union and has been Baghdad's leading Western supporter throughout the 53-month conflict. The French treasury, which is responsible for external debt re-negotiations, declined comment on the agreement.

But one official termed it a "technical accord" within the framework of a 3.8 billion franc (\$580 million) Iraqi debt refinancing which France approved last year.

Saudi Arabian plan envisages four per cent growth until 1990

RIYADH (Agencies) — Saudi Arabia said its new five-year development plan launched Thursday calls for real growth in the economy of four per cent a year until 1990.

The plan, approved by the Saudi cabinet Wednesday and published in Saudi newspapers, projects growth in the country's petroleum sector of 5.6 per cent a year and in the non-petroleum sector of 2.9 per cent.

It envisages gross national product — the value of all goods and services produced in the economy — rising to 354.9 billion riyals (\$98.3 billion) at current prices by 1990 from 284.1 billion (\$78.7 billion) now.

It envisages total government spending over the coming five years of 1,000 billion riyals (\$277 billion), of which half will go on development projects.

Growth in Saudi industry is projected over the next five years at an annual 15.9 per cent, in financial services at nine per cent and in agriculture at six per cent.

The large construction sector is expected to shrink by an annual 2.8 per cent.

Productivity is forecast to grow at four per cent annually, translating into a loss of 855,000 jobs, which would be partly offset by an increase of 630,000 jobs due

to growth in the non-oil sector of the economy, the plan said.

Information Minister Ali Hassan Al Shaer said the government had spent more than 2,000 billion riyals (\$554 billion) in its previous five-year plans spanning the last 15 years.

"We begin the new period with confidence, despite the deterioration of the oil market. Our economic policy is based on a reduction in the dependence of crude oil as the only source of revenue," he told the official Saudi Press Agency.

"When oil production was more than 10 billion barrels per day our annual income from oil was more than 368 billion riyals annually. Our current production is not more than four billion barrels a day, so it is wise to adjust," he added.

The kingdom's 1985-1986 budget announced by the Saudi ministry of finance and national economy Wednesday estimated both revenues and expenditure at \$55.94 billion.

Administrative expenditure has been cut by 13 per cent compared to last year, while allocations for development projects have been increased from 46 per cent to 55 per cent.

Allocations for major economic

sectors are: Economic resources development (\$4.03 billion), infrastructure (\$1.86 billion), social development (\$4.14 billion), education (\$6.7 billion), transport and communications (\$4.61 billion), municipal services (\$3.32 billion) and defence and security (\$17.92 billion).

The budget sets aside \$12.72 billion for new development projects, while 2.6 billion has been allocated to specialised domestic credit institutions, in addition to their existing resources estimated at \$1.26 billion.

Actual revenues for the past fiscal year amounted to \$46.68 billion, about 22 per cent less than estimated, while total expenditure reached \$59.55 billion, 18 per cent below the budget estimates.

The growth rate of the non-oil private sector in real gross domestic product increased by 4.3 per cent in constant prices in 1984-85, while inflation went down by 0.8 per cent and the cost of living by 1.5 per cent.

The budget statement attributed this downward trend to an increase in inventories from previous years, the completion of infrastructural projects, greater diversification in local production and more trade competition between producers and importers.

These factors also helped reduce profit margins, which were high during the period of "exceptional" growth witnessed in the kingdom at a time when major development projects were under implementation.

The total value of imports of goods and commodities in the previous year amounted to \$33.29 billion, an 11 per cent drop over 1983-84. The growth in domestic liquidity in the year ended 8.5 per cent, with the Saudi rial aiming "remarkable appreciation" in value against all major currencies, except the dollar.

EC enlargement talks fail

BRUSSELS (R) — European Community (EC) enlargement talks with Spain and Portugal broke up Thursday night without reaching agreement, diplomats said.

The two sides will meet again next Thursday on the eve of a crucial Community summit here.

Spanish Foreign Minister Fernando Moran told reporters: "There is no possibility of a rupture but the positions of certain delegations are very hard."

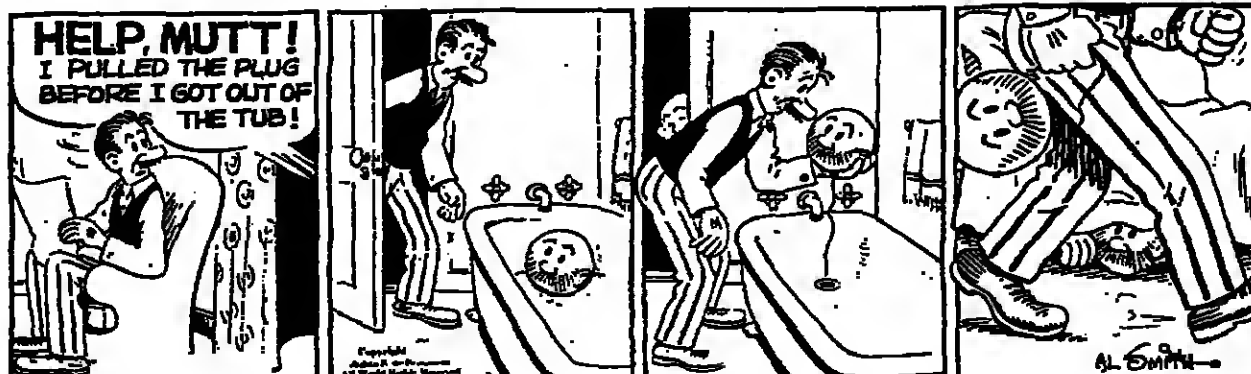
Ministers said they were hopeful they could complete entry negotiations with Spain and Portugal at next Thursday's meeting.

Dutch secretary of state for foreign affairs Mr. Willem van Eekelen said: "We certainly hope so. Otherwise there will be no summit."

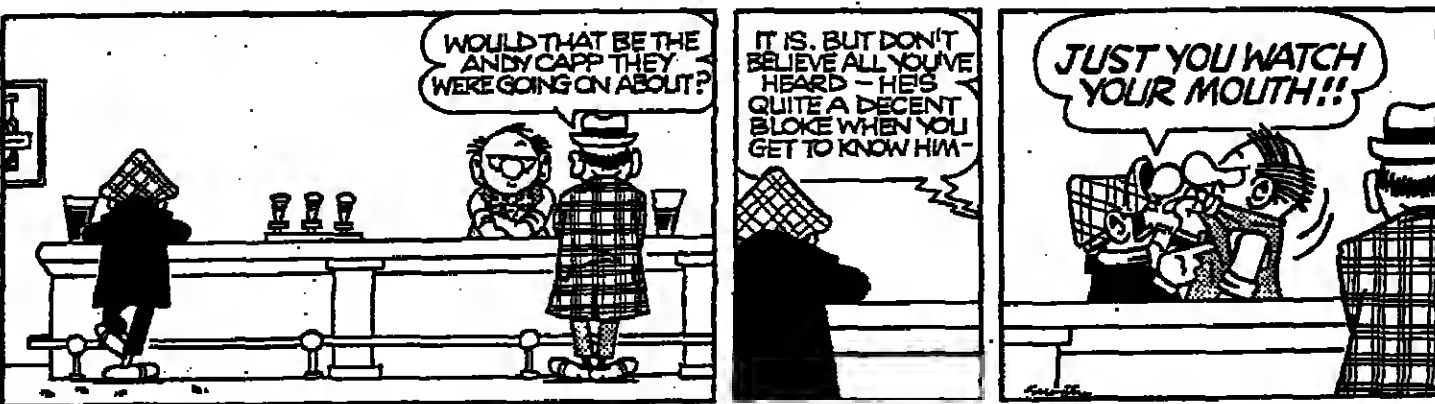
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ELZAH

UBOAT

BONGIB

SEEBID

THE WHEEL WAS CONSIDERED MAN'S GREATEST INVENTION UNTIL HE GOT THIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: SOAPY CHAFE TURDIG POLITE

Answer: What were the prospects of departure during the big blizzard? — UP IN THE AIR

Reagan calls on Congress to approve MX funds

U.S. leader optimistic over summit talks with Gorbachev

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan has made a fresh call for the U.S. Congress to approve funding for the MX missile, saying there was little prospect of success in the Geneva arms control talks without it.

Addressing his appeal to the House of Representatives, where opposition Democrats have a majority and the Appropriations Committee has voted against the 10-warhead missile, Mr. Reagan said at a news conference: "Now is the testing time for the House."

He said the European allies who had backed deployment of new U.S. Pershing-2 and cruise missiles in Europe were watching Congress to see whether the United States had equal courage.

Reagan also said he thought there was a good chance for a summit meeting with the new Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, who succeeded the late Konstantin Chernenko this month.

"I think it is high time that we did this," said Mr. Reagan, the first U.S. president in more than

50 years who has not met his Soviet counterpart.

"I think there is a good chance of that," he added in response to a reporter's question.

Mr. Reagan, who recently extended a personal written invitation to Mr. Gorbachev to a summit meeting in the United States, said he did not feel Moscow's non-committal reply was a rebuff.

"The man has only been in office for a few days," he said.

He said he had taken the initiative in extending the invitation because "it is our turn to be the hosts" for such a meeting. The last three summits took place in the Soviet Union, where there were two such meetings in 1974, and Austria, a neutral country, where a summit was held in 1979.

Mr. Reagan said he felt his previously stated condition for a summit, that there be an agenda of topics and prospects for success, had now been satisfied. With new U.S.-Soviet arms talks beginning, he said, a number of matters could be advanced by a summit.

Mr. Reagan said next week's House voting on the MX, which the Senate approved in two separate votes this week, would determine whether the United States faced Moscow in Geneva as a United Nation or one divided over an essential security programme.

The Soviet Union is on the verge of deploying two new intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), he said, while "we are still debating" the MX, whose fate has been in dispute for some 10 years.

No request by a president for a major strategic system deemed vital to national security has ever been denied by Congress, Mr. Reagan said, adding that if the House reverses this precedent

"There is little prospect of success at Geneva."

He said the United States believed that "for the first time we really have an opportunity" for an arms accord in Geneva and would do nothing with regard to the 1979 Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT-2) to undercut the negotiations.

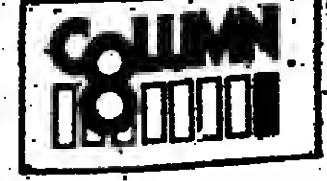
Both Moscow and Washington have pledged not to undercut the 1979 pact even though the United States has refused to ratify it.

On Thursday the ruling Soviet politburo held its first regular session under new leader Mikhail Gorbachev and declared Moscow's readiness to restore détente between East and West.

A report on the meeting by the Official News Agency TASS also said the 10-man politburo had stressed the need to improve discipline at Soviet workplaces and in the Communist Party and had approved measures to boost agricultural efficiency.



DUTCHMAN OFFERS SS-20 SITE: Dutch farmer Leendert Plas stands in one of his fields which he offered to the Soviets for deployment of their SS-20 nuclear missiles to counter-balance NATO rockets, scheduled to be deployed in the Netherlands (AP wire photo)



TV station takes risk with royal romance film

PLYMOUTH, England (R) — A regional television station has decided to risk offending Britain's royal family and screen a controversial American film about the romance of Prince Charles and Princess Diana. Both the state-chartered British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and the advertisement-funded Independent Television Network turned down the film three years ago for fear that it might upset the monarchy. Scenes include Queen Elizabeth reading a horse-racing newspaper at breakfast and Charles and Diana tap-dancing on the balcony at Buckingham Palace.

South African blacks stage strike, boycott after killing of protestors

UTENHAGE, South Africa (R) — Blacks Friday boycotted work and white-owned shops in protest against riot police shootings near here Thursday in which 18 people were killed.

Armed police also stood guard over black townships near Uitenhage, a white Cape province town, as the death toll from the shooting was revised from 17 to 18, with 23 people wounded.

In Cape Town, Law and Order Minister Louis Le Grange issued a statement saying that President P.W. Botha had agreed the Justice Ministry should immediately set up a judicial commission to investigate the killings.

Police gave no details of the additional death as blacks staged the boycotts in protest at the shooting, which police said was forced by thousands of blacks marching on Uitenhage.

Eighteen men, women and children aged between 15 and 70 were shot dead with rifles, shotguns and pistols, the 25th anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre when police killed 69 anti-apartheid protesters.

Troops patrolled the centre of Uitenhage but police reported no further incidents around the town during the night, although sporadic violence continued in other black townships across South Africa.

Few blacks were working or shopping in Uitenhage following a call by local community groups for a boycott until Monday.

The Volkswagen Car Company said there was no production at its Uitenhage plant Friday because all black workers were on strike. Of the 6,000 employees at the plant, some 2,800 are black and the rest are coloured (mixed race) and white.

The shooting followed black

protests over various political and economic grievances, including a government decision to ban planned funerals Thursday of four victims of previous riots.

Blacks, excluded from a say in white-controlled central government, often manifest their discontent in bus and work boycotts and at funerals.

Police said they fire trying to halt a march on Uitenhage but black eyewitnesses said they were marching to a Sharpeville memorial and the police attack was unprovoked.

"Bodies were piled up on each other," one of the marchers told Reuters later. "Everybody was grief-stricken. It was terrible."

Commonwealth Secretary-General Shridath Ramphal called Friday for economic sanctions against South Africa and said Commonwealth members should take a lead in campaigning for them.

Speaking on British Radio following the shooting of 18 blacks by South African police Thursday, Mr. Ramphal denounced the white-ruled republic's policy of apartheid.

He called for selective sanctions applied on the basis of international consensus. "They may have to be phased but we must make a serious start," he said.

Merely a demonstration of seriousness about sanctions could help to induce a more serious approach to change in South Africa," he added.

He dismissed suggestions that sanctions would hurt South Africa's blacks. "Nothing by way of economic sanctions can hurt them half as much as they are being hurt now," he said.

OAU demands U.N. action

The Organisation of African

Unity (OAU) demanded Friday that the U.N. Security Council meet urgently to punish South Africa for what it called Thursday's "wanton" killings of 18 blacks.

An OAU statement said it had asked the African group at the United Nations to seek an urgent meeting of the Security Council to "consider appropriate measures to end the wanton killings of the black majority in South Africa."

It condemned the use of "armed brutality" against what it called innocent and unarmed demonstrators marching on the 25th anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre in which 69 blacks died.

The OAU called on the international community to take note "of the criminal acts of the racist regime" and exert maximum pressure to end "its acts of banditry and intimidations against the black people".

Lange condemns killings

New Zealand Prime Minister David Lange Friday condemned South Africa over the police killings of 18 blacks.

The killings showed again the brutality of the apartheid system, Mr. Lange said in a statement.

"It (the police action) calls into question all the claims that South Africa has embarked on real change. Actions speak louder than words," he said.

Mr. Lange's Labour government is putting pressure on the New Zealand Rugby Football Union to drop a proposed tour of South Africa later this year.

The Lange government has said it will do everything possible, short of withdrawing passports, to persuade the union to call off the tour.

'Chalice cannot transmit AIDS'

MELBOURNE (R) — The chalice from which members of a congregation drink wine at the Holy Communion Church service cannot transmit AIDS virus, the Anglican Archbishop of Melbourne, David Penman, said here. The archbishop said the church had been told to use a purificator — a cloth to wipe the cup — after each communicant had drunk wine. The church had sought expert medical advice in response to community concern about AIDS and the use of the "common cup", he told the Melbourne Diocesan Synod. The cloth used at the service should be clean, recently laundered and ironed, he said. The cup itself should be made of an impervious metal rather than earthenware, china or wood. AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) has killed 19 Australians since it was first detected in Sydney in 1983.

Escaped killer commits suicide

LONDON (R) — A shotgun-wielding murderer who has been besieged by armed police for two days inside a parked van in west London was found shot dead Friday, a police spokesman said. Two gunshots were heard shortly after police issued loudhailer appeals for the man, James Baigrie, an escaped killer, to come out, witnesses said. The van doors were pulled off with grappling hooks attached to a police landrover and Baigrie was found dead inside, the spokesman said. He took refuge in the van and refused to surrender after a police raid on his nearby lodgings early on Wednesday. Baigrie, 33, listed as "Scotland's most wanted man", escaped two years ago from an Edinburgh jail where he was serving a life sentence for the shotgun murder of a barman.

Railway worker runs out of steam

PEKING (R) — A Chinese railway worker has complained he was running out of steam in his efforts to get married because of a smokescreen of regulations and red tape. In a letter to the Workers' Daily newspaper he said he had to seek the permission of eight organisations, before going to the municipal government to get his marriage licence. Listing the organisations, he said he had to ask the opinion of his workmates, the Youth League, the Communist Party branch, the Population Planning Group, receive the authorisation of the Political Work Office, the railway's personnel office, the Trade Union and the Railway Population Planning Office. "After getting through these eight passes I still haven't seen my marriage licence," wrote Zhang Xun. "The last obstacle is to go to the municipal government to get it." Under China's one child per couple family planning policy, couples must also seek permission before having a child. They are advised not to get married before around 26 for men and 23 for women.

Actor Michael Redgrave dies

LONDON (R) — Sir Michael Redgrave, regarded as one of the greatest British actors of the 20th Century, died one day after his 77th birthday, a nursing home spokesman said. Redgrave had been suffering for 12 years from Parkinson's Disease and died Thursday at a nursing home at Deunham, near London, the spokesman there said. Redgrave became famous to a generation of filmgoers in the 1930s and 1940s as the decent, slightly bemused Englishman of such films as Alfred Hitchcock's 'The Lady Vanishes'.

'Soviets ready for drastic arms cuts'

CANBERRA (R) — A senior Soviet official said here Friday the Soviet Union would be prepared to negotiate drastic reductions in strategic armaments if agreement could be reached to halt work on space weaponry.

Vladimir Petrovsky, head of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's International Organisations Division, was speaking following three days of talks with Australian officials on disarmament and arms control.

"If we will agree that we will have no work with regard to outer space now, then immediately we will settle and we will make it clear that we would be ready to go for drastic reductions of the strategic armaments," Mr. Petrovsky said

of the current U.S.-Soviet arms control talks in Geneva.

"I would like to stress it — drastic reduction of strategic armaments including intercontinental ballistic missiles, nuclear medium-range (weapons) and heavy bombers."

"And we would be ready also to speak about the freeze of the deployment of nuclear medium weapons," Mr. Petrovsky added.

But he said Moscow first should be sure there would be no arms in outer space.

Mr. Petrovsky was responding to a question about the U.S. Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), or Star Wars programme, from a U.S. embassy official at a public meeting of the Australian Institute of International Affairs.

Mr. Petrovsky said Star Wars was the key to arms reduction negotiations.

"As we see it, the essence of this Star Wars programme is in the intention to provide the opportunity for the first nuclear strike with impunity," he said.

Preventing an arms race in outer space was the main link in disarmament but he believed this could be settled in tandem with reduction of strategic offensive weapons and nuclear medium-range weapons.

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Greeks to hold 2nd presidential ballot

ATHENS (R) — Christos Sartzetakis, the choice of Greece's Socialist government to succeed pro-Western conservative Constantine Karamanlis as president, faces a new test Saturday when parliament holds a second ballot.

In Saturday's vote, like the initial one last Sunday, he needs the support of 200 of the 300 deputies. Since the 112 members of the opposition Conservative Party refuse to back him, he has no apparent chance of winning.

But Saturday's results should show whether Mr. Sartzetakis has a chance of getting through the crucial final vote on March 29, when 180 votes would be enough under constitutional rules.

If he fails in that round, a general election will be held immediately. Commentators say the tone of such a poll would be bitter, with conservatives still angry at Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu's decision not to back Mr. Karamanlis for another term.

If he succeeds, Socialist morale will be boosted and the government will proceed with a controversial revision of the constitution designed to limit presidential powers.

Mr. Karamanlis resigned abruptly after Mr. Papandreu's surprise March 9 announcement that he was withdrawing his support, and the parliamentary vote was called.

Last Sunday's initial ballot, in which Mr. Sartzetakis got 178 votes, suggested the March 29 session will be a cliff-hanger, political sources say.

The candidate, a supreme court judge, seems sure of one extra vote — that of a junior foreign minister who had been abroad — plus that of acting President Ioannis Alevras, who is also speaker of parliament.

But New Democracy, the Conservative Party, says Mr. Alevras is not entitled to vote.



Tancredo Neves recovering after second surgery

BRASILIA (R) — Brazilian President-elect Tancredo Neves was making an excellent recovery after his second abdominal operation within six days, his surgeons said.

"The president underwent treatment for a benign illness," surgeon Henrique Walter Pinotti told a news conference. "In a short time the president will resume his responsibilities."

The announcement dispelled much of the gloom hanging over parliament since Mr. Neves, 75, underwent surgery last Friday, preventing his investiture as the first civilian president after 21 years of military rule.

Surgeons removed an intestinal blockage in a second operation.

Vice-President Jose Sarney was empowered to act as president until Mr. Neves recovered. Mr. Neves' sudden illness had raised the possibility that Mr. Sarney would have to take over the presidency for the full six-year term.

This was a blow to Mr. Neves' Brazilian Democratic Movement Party (PMDB) as Mr. Sarney was former chairman of the military-backed Social Democrat Party (PDS), politicians said.

But the overriding consideration was to avoid the military stepping in again, they added.

They said there was almost unanimous support in parliament for Mr. Sarney to continue if necessary, even among supporters of the defeated PDS presidential candidate Paulo Maluf.

But they added that if Mr. Sarney remained president he would have to call direct presidential elections in 1986 or face losing vital parliamentary support.

Bankers said the financial markets were "eerily calm" and there had been no reaction in the stock markets following a spate of selling last Tuesday which wiped four per cent off the value of shares.

Ukrainian group claims Soviet envoy's murder

NEW DELHI (R) — A Ukrainian organisation Friday claimed responsibility for Thursday's murder of Soviet diplomat Vladislav Kitzchenko in New Delhi's embassy district, police said.

A police spokesman told Reuters a foreign news agency had reported receiving a telephone call in New York claiming responsibility for Thursday's attack.

The caller told the agency that a group calling itself the Ukrainian Reactionary Force was responsible. The group demanded the evacuation of what it called Soviet occupation forces from the Ukrainian "homeland", the police spokesman added.

Crack commandos Friday guarded foreign missions in Delhi, while the Indian government said it would do everything possible to catch the two killers.

Two men on a black motorcycle shot Mr. Kitzchenko dead as he and his wife were being driven to lunch. They fired five bullets from a semi-automatic weapon, hitting the diplomat four times.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) said Friday security had been tightened at all foreign missions in Delhi and police said members of the counter-insurgency special

frontier force had been brought in to assure the safety of diplomats.

Rail and bus stations, roads out of the city and airports were being checked and Interpol had been contacted, they said.

Interior (Home) Minister S.B. Chavan told parliament security forces were doing everything possible to find the assassins and that a nationwide alert had been issued.

Mr. Kitzchenko's murder follows the disappearance of another Soviet diplomat, Igor Gheja, who vanished six days ago during an early morning stroll in a Delhi park.

Delhi Police Commissioner S.S. Jogi said Thursday the hunt was still on for Mr. Gheja, 37, and police would investigate a possible link between the two incidents.

PTI has said police raided homes and offices of Iranian, Palestinian and Afghan refugees and exiles in the hunt for Mr. Gheja.

Indian newspapers Friday described Mr. Kitzchenko as an engineer working in his embassy's economics department. Mr. Gheja worked in the mission's information section, police said.

Neither of their names appear in the current diplomatic list.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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THE ROOT OF THE MATTER

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ A643
♥ A96
♦ A102
♣ 632

WEST
♠ Q975
♥ Vaid
♦ J885
♣ KJ1095

EAST
♠ K1082
♥ 10974
♦ 073
♣ Q84

SOUTH
♠ 43
♥ KJ8532
♦ KQ94
♣ A7

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
4 NT Pass 5 ♠ Pass
5 NT Pass 5 ♠ Pass
6 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass
Pass Pass Dble

Opening lead: Five of ♠.

Bill Root of Boca Raton, Fla., is acknowledged as the country's most successful bridge teacher. If you don't believe us, take a Royal Viking Sea Mediterranean-Wine Country cruise this coming May and see for yourself how he conducts a bridge course.

At the recent Summer North American Championships, Root and his partner, Richard Pavlicak of Ft. Lauderdale, did well to reach slam

Ershad wins landslide victory in referendum

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh President Hossain Mohammad Ershad has won a landslide victory in Thursday's controversial referendum on his military rule, strengthening his hand for talks with the opposition on the country's political future. Latest figures issued Friday showed he had won 94 per cent support from voters cast at 20,431 polling stations out of a total of 23,000.

The election commission said Gen. Ershad had 29,720,317 votes to 1,646,333 against him. It said details of the turnout were still being compiled, but one figure revealed nearly 74 per cent of the voters had cast their ballots.

"It is now clear that President Ershad has received a mandate to pursue his policies and run the country until an election," state television announced.

An aide to Gen. Ershad said the overwhelming endorsement would give the president the necessary strength to speak to the opposition on the country's future democracy.

"A referendum is no substitute for democracy, but it shows the way towards democracy", Information Minister A.R. Yusuf told Reuters.

Gen. Ershad has said he would try to start a fresh dialogue with the opposition, especially with the leaders of the Awami League and Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) soon after the referendum.

But opposition leaders, most of whom are still in hiding, said the people had 'totally rejected' the referendum because only a "handful of people" had turned up to vote.

One opposition leader told Reuters by telephone that the result of the referendum was decided well before the voting took place.

The two opposition alliances of 22 parties have denounced the referendum as a fraud to legalise Gen. Ershad's rule.

Many eyewitnesses said the turnout figure was as low as 25 per cent.

The referendum passed off peacefully, except for a series of bomb blasts in which a security man was killed and 15 other people were injured.

The opposition had called a general strike on the voting day, but traffic was normal in Dhaka although many shops were closed.

Shortly after taking office, Mr. Alfonsin ordered the trial of nine former military junta members, including former Presidents Jorge Videla and Roberto Viola. He also appointed a state commission to probe the fate of up to 30,000 people believed to have disappeared under military rule.

The commission last September accused the military government of implanting a system of state terror and said the fate of the missing would only be known when those responsible for their disappearance were brought to justice.

Hundreds of human rights cases against military officers have since

been stalled in military courts and only the trial of the nine junta members is going ahead. Public court hearings are expected to start next month.

Thursday night's march was called "give a band to a des paracido (missing person)". The organisers gathered protest notes each containing the outline of the band.

The protest notes were strung over a main avenue for 12 blocks between the Government House and the Congress building. The organisers said they had just short of a million notes from 86 nations, but most were from Argentina itself.

Thousands urge human rights trials in Argentina

BUENOS AIRES (R) — About 50,000 Argentines marched through the centre of Buenos Aires along a route strung with nearly a million protest notes complaining about lack of progress in human rights trials.

The march Thursday night from Congress to the Government House was one of the biggest human rights protests since President Raul Alfonsin took office in December 1983, ending military rule that began with a coup in March 1976 against President Isabel Peron.

"We are against the slow and corrupt justice system, which is so slow and corrupt that it becomes

an injustice," Hebe de Bonafini, president of the Mothers of Plaza De Mayo Human Rights Group, told the rally.

She called for the punishment of military officials responsible for the torture, illegal detention and killing of thousands of Argentines under eight years of military rule.

"We ask for punishment," the crowd chanted back.

"Mr. Alfonsin, who made human rights one of his presidential campaign issues, has been criticised for failure to win the conviction of military officers for their part in widespread human rights violations under military rule.

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